Paris for men

Functional fashion

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Frozen embryos: A mother's choice

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THE INDEPENDENT

3,034 TUESDAY 9 JULY 1996 WEATHER Cloudy early on, sunny later 40P (IR 45P)

'Dunblane will happen at any time again, unless decisive action is taken' – Colin Campbell QC at the Dunblane inquiry yesterday. Minutes later, a machete attack began in a Wolverhampton school...

Terror returns to the playground

PETER VICTOR

A man wielding a machete burst into an infants' school yesterday and ran amok, slashing at children and wounding a teacher. The attacker climbed over a fence into St Luke's Church of England school in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, and attacked adults and pupils as they were enjoying a teddy bears' picnic.

The incident – echoing the Dunblane tragedy four months ago – came within minutes of Colin Campbell, QC, telling the judicial inquiry into the massacre al the Scottish school that a similar attack "will happen again at any time unless decisive action is taken".

Mr Campbell was still on his feet addressing the inquiry as the attack began shortly after 3pm. Parents were waiting to pick up their children and take them home. Several parents were helping teachers organise a picnic as part of end-of-term activities when the attacker scaled the school fence.

Three children and four adults were injured in the attack: a three-year-old boy, two four-year-old girls, a teacher, a mother, a playgroup leader and one other adult.

One parent, Bala Bains, 28, said he tried divert the attacker's attention as he lashed out with the machete.

Mr Bains, a courier, was waiting to collect his son Amar, aged six, and niece, Kiran, five, from school when he saw a man loitering in nearby bushes: "I thought he was a litter collector," he said. "Then I saw him jump over the school wall and reach into his bag. He pulled out a huge machete. I didn't know on my mobile phone. He just walked straight towards one of the mothers and slashed at her head. She didn't even see him coming. She just went down, I don't think she moved.

"The guy jumped over a little 2ft fence where the kids' play area is and just started hacking at anybody and everybody.

I kept close to him and eventually got his attention by shouting 'Come on, get me you bastard'. He looked at me and moved towards me smiling. He tried to slash me with the knife but I jumped back and he missed. Then he just turned and walked away. He cut one more child before he finally left. He didn't even look as if he was panicking, he was very calm."

A spokesman for Wolverhampton's New Cross hospital said a woman aged 29 was in a serious condition and in the operating theatre. Three children aged three and four suffered disfiguring lacerations to the head. The condition of all three was stable and they were expected to undergo surgery.

Paul Shields, chief executive at New Cross Hospital, said: "The patients have some nasty injuries but their condition, as we see it at the moment, is not life-threatening. One of the adults and one of the children are in a serious condition.

"One child has facial injuries and another sustained injuries to the head. The rest had injuries on their legs and arms."

The attack ended when a parent chased a man from the school towards a nearby block of flats. Police surrounded the block, Villiers House, and the area cordoned off. Officers with riot gear and a trained negotiator waited for nearly two hours before taking away a man. But Superintendent Pat Wing, of West Midlands police, said later: "Nobody has yet been arrested. We are still searching the locality." He said the search was increasing in intensity and would continue through the night.

Parents from Dunblane, where gunman Thomas Hamilton murdered a teacher and 16 children before killing himself, were stunned by news of the attack. Their feelings were summed up by a local councillor, Arthur Ironside, who said: "We are all sickened by this atrocity. No one can understand how anyone can hurt little children. What possible benefit is there for this evil man?

"Our own tragedy happened just four months ago. Now every parent involved will be reliving the hell of that day and the weeks that followed."

A spokesman for Dunblane Primary School said: "It's shattering to hear something like this could happen again. We thought it was a nightmare never to be repealed. To think other parents have to go what we went through."

Wolverhampton's chair of education Bob Jones said security at St Luke's was up to date following the Dunblane tragedy. The school was surrounded by a fence, thought to be at least 6ft tall, and there were bolts and locks on all the gates and doors.

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, said she was "horrified" by the attack. "My heartfelt sympathies go to those injured and their families."

Schools under siege

March 1996: Thomas Hamilton shot dead one woman teacher and 16 five-year-olds at Dunblana primary school.
December 1995: London headmaster Philip Lawrence was knifed to death after helping a pupil who was being attacked by youths.
June 1994: Man with flamethrower severely injured A-level pupils in Northern Ireland.
March 1994: Nikki Conroy, 12, stabbed to death by Stephen Wilkinson at Hall Garth School, Middlesborough.
Summer 1993: Youth with shotgun and machete tried to hold a class hostage at Handsworth Wood Girls school, Birmingham.

Aftermath: Children's toys lie abandoned after the attack during a teddy bear's picnic Photograph: Caters

Attack confirms fears of teachers

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

The attack on St Luke's comes at a time when concern about school security has peaked, after a series of violent incidents in schools.

Headteachers last night attacked the Government for its delay in providing extra funds for school security.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, promised more money in May, after the report of a working party set up following the death of Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster who was stabbed to death. But she said it would not be available immediately.

Teachers recognise that it is impossible to protect all schools against lone attackers bent on violence, but the National Association of Head Teachers believes more could be done.

Heads reckon that £50m is needed to pay for measures recommended by the working party, including closed circuit television cameras, intruder alarms, security fencing and security locks.

At present, schools have to bid with each other for grants to install closed circuit television.

Rowie Shaw, a spokeswoman for the association, said: "This money should be available for all schools. This kind of tragedy can occur in any school in the country and it is no reflection at all on the school that this has happened."

David Blunkett, the shadow Secretary of State for Education, emphasised that better security alone would not solve the problem.

"While improving school security is important, it is also essential that the potential attackers are identified. There must be the closest co-operation between GPs, hospital staff, police and the probation service, rather than relying on fortress schooling."

Robin Squire, the schools minister, said money for security was the highest priority.

"We are doing everything we can. Can I also, as a parent, reassure parents that this ghastly incident was not typical and that schools remain overwhelmingly safe and are getting safer."

A new law to come into force shortly will make it a criminal offence to carry an offensive weapon on school premises.

Eamonn O'Kane, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said: "Tragically this event seems to underline the points that we and others have been making for some time, which is that security for schools is going to have to become a priority"

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World takes first steps to ban the bomb

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

International legal restrictions have been placed on nuclear weapons for the first time, hastening a growing trend to avoid dependence on nuclear forces.

The World Court in The Hague yesterday set important limitations on the use or threat of use of such weapons. But the Court, which is the world's supreme judicial body, stopped short of an outright ban on the possession, use or threat of use of nuclear devices.

Last night, anti-nuclear pressure groups, including CND, were claiming victory in the close-run decision. But diplomatic sources took comfort in the Court's refusal to rule that the threat or use of nuclear weapons was illegal in all circumstances.

The Court ruled: "The threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict and, in particular, the principles and rules of humanitarian law."

However, it added: "The Court cannot conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defence, in which the very survival of a state would be at stake."

Nevertheless, its unexpectedly robust decision delighted anti-nuclear campaigners, who had feared the Court would duck the issue.

The landmark decision has been keenly awaited by anti-nuclear groups and the five official nuclear powers since a large majority of the UN General Assembly asked for it in December 1994.

The case was also crucial to the authority of the World Court. The vote was balanced on a knife edge – seven judges voted for the decision, seven against, with a casting vote made by the Algerian President, Mohammed Bedjaoui.

It was the first time the International Court of Justice had been asked to rule on the legality of any weapon, but its decision had awesome implications.

If it had refused to make a ruling, it consigned itself to irrelevance and humiliation.

A decision that the threat or use of nuclear weapons was illegal would have made the policy of nuclear deterrence – on which the five official nuclear powers have depended for their security – illegal.

That did not happen yesterday, but threats by Britain and other nuclear-armed countries to use nuclear weapons in response to limited strikes or against third world states were ruled illegal, unless their very survival was at stake.

It has long been understood that the five official nuclear powers – the US, Russia, Britain France and China – would only use nuclear weapons as a weapon of last resort.

However, the rise of nuclear "threshold" powers – Iraq, India, Pakistan and Israel, which do have nuclear weapons but are not official members of the nuclear club – has given rise to doctrines of "sub-strategic" nuclear deterrence, in which small, highly-accurate nuclear weapons would be delivered against a renegade state or Third World country, possibly as a "warning shot".

Britain cancelled the RAF's tactical nuclear missile, which was partly intended for this role, but announced it would, if necessary, arm Trident missiles with single warheads to do the same job.

The World Court ruling effectively says that any form of "sub-strategic" nuclear deterrence is, by definition, illegal.

The Court has no mechanisms to enforce its judgment, but it is in tune with new military thinking.

The verdict will reinforce the pressure for less reliance on nuclear weapons which has been gathering momentum as more powerful and accurate conventional weapons become available, such as those used in the Gulf war against Iraq.

The US Navy recently published a paper stressing the need for massive and highly accurate conventional strikes to bridge the gap between operations by conventional armed forces and nuclear strikes.

The Royal Navy is to get US Tomahawk cruise missiles with high-explosive warheads to do a similar job, and the RAF is hoping to learn shortly which missiles suitable for hitting strategic targets from a safe distance it is to get. That decision could be made this week.

Though the verdict is in line with prevailing military trends, none of the established nuclear powers is yet ready to eschew nuclear weapons as its last resort. Nuclear deterrence is the policy of the present Government in Britain, and Tony Blair reaffirmed two weeks ago, of a future Labour Government too.

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news

Strike sends Lady Olga into a road rage

DAVID AARONOVITCH

Transport questions in the House. And the main transport question, given yesterday's London tube strike (the third in three weeks), was how did our various heroes and heroines get to the House?

Clare Short, she told Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, had "walked from Euston [where her train from Birmingham had terminated] with a very heavy bag". But was there no passing motorist who could have assisted her? Is chivalry dead? I would far rather believe that, given London's traffic speeds, they were all travelling far more slowly than the determined Ms Short, whose majestic progress down Tottenham Court Road, as captured on short-circuit television, should now be made available on video for hire.

Lady Olga Maitland (Con, Sutton and Cheam) must have travelled most of the way by aeroplane, having just been the recipient of some hospitality (chronicled in this newspaper) on the part of a chap called Joe Toblerone (or something), head honcho of Maltese Tourism. She had clearly been looking forward to joining the democratic throng, lugging her weekend bags on to the Piccadilly Line and then straight to the House. Unhappily the industrial action thwarted her plans and forced her into a vehicle of some description (probably some appalling Jag or vulgar Merc).

To Labour cries of "look, it's the Maltese Falcon", a somewhat restrained Lady Olga (only one string of pearls, her more severe pair of glasses, no swimsuit) told MPs that the strike was forcing people to use their cars, "making road rage more likely" (this is incontestable: if no one was on the roads there would be no road rage. Critics of Lady Olga should bear such insights in mind). More controversial was her suggestion that it was "all because the party opposite will not condemn strikes". Lady Olga must be forgiven her lapses of memory (she travels abroad a great deal, apparently), but most of us old things know that the worst strikes happen precisely when Labour does condemn them. "Someone give 'er a ride 'ome", said Dennis Skinner, unhelpfully.

The transport minister Steve Norris (whose wit and urbanity will be missed when he retires at the next election) replied that he thought that road rage was as old as motoring. "In the 1920s they used hit each other over the head with starting handles," he said. Motorists needed "patience and calm". Which were qualities that appeared to desert William O'Brien (Lab, Normanton).

Mr O'Brien was once a coal miner and, with his craggy features, looks as though he was himself hewn from a very deep seam. Reddening with anger Mr O'Brien condemned those who committed violence in road rage cases, especially where killing took place. "The penalty should fit the crime!" he thundered. Personally I look forward to public executions on the M25 when New Labour comes to power, but I should warn Mr O'Brien that this pledge wasn't in my copy of *New Life for Britain*.

It is widely believed that the erratic Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Con, Lancaster) does not have long distances to travel to the House, since she probably occupies secure accommodation in a small apartment just above Big Ben. Nevertheless, she had thoughts on road rage. "In my day", she said firmly, "it would have been known as temper tantrums." So here's today's challenge: £10 to any reader who can tell me when Dame Elaine's day was. And £15 for anyone who dares stop Clare Short next Tuesday (when Aslef strikes again) and offer her – and her bag – a lift.

Union barons, page 6

Drumcree locked in battle of wills

MICHAEL STREETER

Beyond the barricade: Orangemen at Portadown yesterday where the standoff with the RUC continues — Photograph: Paul Faith/Pacemaker

A drawn-out battle of wills between Orangemen and police looked set to continue last night as the "siege of Drumcree" sparked outbreaks of violence in Northern Ireland.

The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, called on the Prime Minister, John Major, to intervene as for the second day Royal Ulster Constabulary officers barred loyalists from marching through a Catholic area of Portadown, Co Armagh.

Tensions in both communities ran high as scores of loyalist youths hijacked and set fire to four lorries in the town centre after police had broken up protests.

Mr Trimble accused officers of "deliberate provocation" after they fired plastic bullets at loyalists as soldiers set up a concrete and barbed wire barricade on the Drumcree Road leading into the Catholic area of Garvaghy Road.

The district Orange leader, Harold Gracey, promised further action throughout the province unless they were able to march down the route. "We have our contingency plans. I think the province is going to erupt," he added. "This is not just the siege of Drumcree but the siege of Ulster."

Political leaders warned the growing violence could threaten the fragile peace in the province.

The stand-off looked likely to last longer than the three-day confrontation last year when loyalists eventually marched along the route in silence.

Among the 5,000-strong Catholic community the feeling was of "resolute determination" not to allow the Orangemen to have their way again. Breandan MacCionnaith of the Garvaghy Road Residents Association said: "We have had two days of violence and there is no sign of the Unionist leaders trying to control their people." In an attempt to break the logjam Mr Trimble and the Democratic Unionist leader, Ian Paisley, called on Downing Street for action.

The worst violence came in Portadown town centre when police broke up loyalist demonstrations at noon. At least four lorries were set on fire to establish impromptu roadblocks which the Army cleared away.

The RUC, which on Saturday decided to ban the march, erected a concrete and barbed wire barrier at the point where the marchers were halted on Sunday, 50 yards from Drumcree church. As officers moved in to clear the way they were pelted with missiles, and responded with plastic bullets.

Last night up to 2,000 police officers faced several thousand loyalist protesters.

Police said it was too early to link the murder of a Catholic man found dead near Lurgan, a few miles from Portadown, with the sectarian disturbances in the town.

Part-time taxi-driver Michael McGoldrick, 31, from Lurgan, was found dead with head injuries yesterday morning.

The sectarian divide, page 15

'What is the Twelfth of July but being bored in a field?'

Ruth Dudley Edwards, a frequent attender at Orange marches, on the atmosphere before last night's violence

Early on Sunday morning, I was transported in a red MG Midget sports car to Portadown by Graham, historian, teacher and Orangeman, who is wearing a three-piece suit to set off his bowler hat, orange collarette and white gloves.

After a press conference, David Trimble, the OUP leader lamented that although he had prudently brought a book, he feared it would prove too short to keep him going throughout the expected siege.

I engaged in a lengthy conversation with a notorious, earringed, skinhead loyalist non-Orangeman known locally as King Rat, who, in current coy terminology, is close to the UVF. In his articulate and uncompromising way, he indicated that this last straw brings the loyalist ceasefire effectively to an end. He called me "Dear" throughout, for, except in republican politically correct circles, Ulster is a place where women are the fair sex and are referred to as girls or ladies.

On foot, we accompanied the 2,000 or so Orangemen on their four-mile parade to Drumcree parish church; the streets were lined with cheering crowds. It was clear that had the Orangemen backed down, they would have been given the white-feather treatment: one child carried a sign saying: "*Daddy, don't let them take my culture away*".

As with the other Orange marches I've attended, it was very much a good-humoured family event: there were hundreds of women and children around the place, and Daphne Trimble arrived with overnight necessities for David, who conducted a long telephone conversation with a journalist in London, while sitting with his three of his young children at a table outside the church gates.

Having been told by a large Orangeman that Catholics were so corrupted by their religion that they sent their children to paedophile priests, and that Gerry Adams was the Son of Satan and will be alive when the world comes to an end, I reported to Graham that I have met a genuine, 100 per cent bigot. "There was," he observed judiciously, "a difference between a bigot and a nut."

By mid-afternoon, I realised that the secret weapon of Ulster Protestants was an immense capacity for enduring boredom. Orangemen sat in the middle of nowhere, equably contemplating days of hanging about waiting. I acquainted Graham with this great truth. "But what else are monthly lodge meetings for, but to equip Orangemen to be bored?" he asked. "And what is the Twelfth of July, but being bored in a field?"

There was excitement, though, when two women walked through, carrying a large poster saying: "*It must be war . . . Kate Adie's here*" and Adie-spotting became the popular sport. At midnight I arrived at the house of my host, another historian and teacher, and asked why, after his local church parade, he didn't go on to Drumcree to bolster up his brethren. "It was awkward," he said. "A Catholic neighbour dropped in for a chat and I thought it would be tactless to leave him to go to Drumcree. But I'll be there tomorrow night."

Dead girl's father is quizzed

LOUISE JURY

The father of a schoolgirl found battered to death beside a railway line was last night being questioned over her death.

Police said Alan Priest, 34, the natural father of Jade Matthews, nine, of Bootle in Merseyside, was being held as part of routine investigations into her killing.

They were also anxious to speak to three young boys seen on the railway line where Jade was discovered with serious head injuries early yesterday.

Dozens of people turned out to search for the missing girl as the case reignited painful memories in the community of the killing of toddler Jamie Bulger by two 10-year-olds in 1993.

Jade Matthews, an only child, left her home in Eaton Avenue, Bootle, at 4pm on Sunday to go out to play.

Her mother Denise, 31, and stepfather Stephen, 37, became worried when she had not returned by 7.30pm. They tried to find her, and finally raised the alarm with police at 9pm.

Early yesterday, a police dog handler discovered Jade's body laying alongside a rarely-used goods rail track one and a half miles away.

She was still wearing the pink sweatshirt, blue jeans and white Reebok trainers she had on when she left home.

Detective Superintendent Geoff MacDonald, who was involved in the Bulger inquiry, said three boys were seen by a passer-by on the railway track at about 8pm on Sunday.

Mr MacDonald stressed they would not be in trouble for trespassing on the line, but said: "We are most anxious to trace those children and would ask them to come forward."

He was keeping an "open mind" about whether children could have been involved in Jade Matthews' death.

Mr MacDonald said her severe facial injuries appeared likely to have been caused by a blunt instrument. It was too early to say whether or not she had been sexually assaulted.

Forensic experts were examining a number of bloodstained items found at the scene, including a plank of wood.

Neighbours said Jade was a "little angel". Tommy Clube, 61, said: "Jade was a very pleasant well-mannered little girl."

Bob Branch, head teacher at Jade's school, Orrell Primary, said the mood among pupils was very sad. "We are just trying to cope as best we can."

Two-year-old Jamie Bulger died three years ago after he left his mother's side in Bootle's Strand shopping centre with two boys, Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, both aged 10.

They dragged Jamie two and a half miles to a stretch of railway track, where he was then hit with bricks and a heavy metal bar and punched, kicked and stamped upon.

Thompson and Venables were both found guilty of murder and ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure.

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SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A Cabinet reshuffle was ruled out by the Prime Minister's office yesterday; lifting the threat of humiliating dismissal or demotion from some, and killing all hope of pre-election promotion for many more. John Major had already given a personal assurance that Douglas Hogg, the beleaguered Agriculture Minister, would be safe – in spite of rampant Westminster speculation that he was for the chop because of his mishandling of the BSE affair.

But there has also been further speculation about the fate of Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, and John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment. However, two middle-ranking ministers, Steven Norris and Tim Eggar, are both standing down from the Commons at the general election, and they have told Mr Major that they want to give up their Government posts this summer, opening the way for Mr Major to promote some backbenchers and give them their last chance of a taste of office before the election.

North Essex Health Authority has played down claims that 17 children were stricken with a serious crippling illness after paddling on a beach. It said it knew of only three children in its area suffering from the rare condition, called Henoch-Schonlein purpora syndrome, and there was no evidence to link the cases with allegedly polluted sea water in Harwich.

However, it appealed to all GPs and neighbouring health authorities to check their records just in case. Fears were sparked by the case of Jessica Macrae, six, who missed eight months of school after falling ill with the syndrome, and her brother Duncan, five. *Louise Jury*

Six out of ten parents are satisfied with the Government's nursery vouchers scheme, but it has had almost no effect on parental choice, according to a survey published yesterday. Labour pointed out that nearly £2.75m of vouchers had been issued to parents, but not redeemed.

Hardly any parents used the list of providers to choose their nursery place, though the scheme aimed to encourage them to shop around. More than 90 per cent of parents in the four areas where it is being piloted have applied for vouchers and more than eight in ten have redeemed them, says the Government-commissioned research. *Judith Judd*

The death of a policeman, for nearly 100 years the only unsolved murder of a Metropolitan police officer, was marked yesterday with the unveiling of a new memorial. A simple black slate plaque, engraved with gold lettering, was unveiled to the memory of PC Frederick Atkins, 23, on the wall outside the police station in New Malden High Street, 115 years after he was shot by a burglar.

His death sparked such public outrage that extra trains had to be laid to carry more than 2,000 mourners to his funeral at St Mary's Church, Walton, his home town. But despite a vast manhunt, nobody was ever charged.

Sir Edward Heath celebrated his 80th birthday by attacking John Major's strategy for dealing with the Labour Leader, Tony Blair. Sir Edward, the former Conservative Prime Minister, who will be standing again at the next election for Old Bexley and Sidcup, said the Tories' new slogan, "New Labour, New Danger" was "absolutely wrong".

He warned in a BBC radio interview that the Tories could not win the next general election by harking back to the past. "For young voters, just getting their first vote at the age of 18, to go on talking about the 60s and 70s and go back to the 1926 General Strike doesn't carry any weight with them at all." *Colin Brown*

One in 100 people suffers from depression during the winter months which is so severe it can be disabling, a psychiatrist said yesterday. Dr Chris Thompson, an expert in Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD, at Southampton University, said sufferers showed impaired function of a chemical in the brain during the winter. In the summer this appeared to be restored.

SAD was first described in 1985 and many scientists remain sceptical of its existence. However, all mammals display seasonal differences in their physiological functioning, and doctors report success with sufferers treated with light therapy. Melatonin, produced by the pineal gland in the brain, which helps to maintain bodily rhythms, has also been found to be far lower in SAD sufferers than non-depressed people in winter months.

Daley Thompson gave his stamp of approval yesterday to a new set of first class stamps from the *Royal Mail*. The double Olympic champion unveiled the stamps, in celebration of 100 years of the Olympic games.

Featuring both Olympic and Paralympic athletes, they show a sprinter, a javelin thrower, a swimmer and a triumphant athlete with the Olympic rings behind.

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SHORTS

هكذا من الاهوال

As another solo yachtswoman comes home after months in peril on the sea, **Rebecca Fowler** asks what drives those who dare

Around the world – or just around the bend?

She returned to a hero's welcome, a champagne spray and wailing sirens. Samantha Brewster, 29, glided into Southampton yesterday in her 67ft yacht after becoming the first woman to sail solo the "wrong" way around the world.

But as Ms Brewster stepped onto land, exhausted by the 247-day marathon, and joined the growing list of champions of endurance, a question loomed. What madness is it that drives so many modern Britons into the eye of the storm?

Ms Brewster said yesterday from the *Heath Insured*, which would normally carry a crew of 14: "I'm more mad than I thought. It was so hard to keep going, not having anyone else out there. Although I did get a lot of advice from the team on the shore, you're completely on your own out there. So many times I thought: why am I doing this?"

The challenge was put to her at the wedding of Chay Blyth, the sailor who defied sceptics in 1971 by being the first to complete that trip alone.

Ms Brewster said: "Everyone had had too much champagne, and I thought it would be forgotten about once everybody had sobered up."

Instead, last October, she began her odyssey from Southampton accompanied only by her mascot, Gutsy the toy gorilla.

Her cargo included 500 long-life dried meals, tins of spinach, 36 boxes of porridge, six jars of honey, 1.5kg of jelly babies and a bottle of rum.

In the course of her journey, Ms Brewster faced some of the greatest physical challenges.

She almost gave up when the mainsail was damaged as she approached Australia, and it took her more than 48 hours to repair the huge bulk, which weighs around a quarter of a ton.

Ms Brewster has followed an arguably glorious but mad British tradition.

As a maritime people, Britons have always been forced on to the waters by their island status and driven to the forefront of naval endeavour and exploration. As knowledge grew and the world became smaller, sailors took up more personal challenges and moved into yachting in record numbers.

In 1898, Captain Joshua Slocum, a Canadian, was the first man to sail solo round the world; then, in 1969, a Briton, Robin Knox-Johnston circumnavigated it non-stop for the first time alone. In 1973, Clare Francis made a single-handed transatlantic crossing; and Mike Golding set the record last year as the fastest man to sail the wrong way round the world in just 161 days.

Ms Brewster said: "When I felt like giving up, it was my family and friends who saw me through. My brother sent me a letter saying he'd gone through life doing all the normal things and he was so proud his sister had set out to do something like this and could achieve it. That was very special."

According to psychologists, her personality fits exactly the profile of the peculiarly British breed of solo sailors. Ms Brewster, a farmer's daughter, is fiercely self-reliant, and, on her own admission, is intolerant of other people's weaknesses.

Dr George Sik, a psychologist who has worked with yacht crews, said: "Compared to other people, they can be intensely assertive and impulsive, certainly eccentric, though not entirely barking mad. The most surprising thing with Chay Blyth was his lack of organisation and impulsiveness."

He added: "There was this sense of 'just get the money together, go off and have a go', which, by any rational standards, is an unusually impulsive way of going about things. That is certainly what separates these explorers from other people."

This impulsiveness is shared by other modern-day adventurers, including the explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes. He has described how he often forgets to take the right equipment on treks and tends to improvise as he goes along, making things fit his needs along the way.

Ms Francis, now better known as a best-selling crime writer, is reluctant to remember her sailing days. She believes that there is a degree of madness involved in taken on the seas alone.

"It wasn't a sporting thing for me," she said. "It was more of an odyssey and I could never have carried on. For me, the sea is incredibly boring after a while. It just goes on and on. It was a spiritual thing, but it was a very short period of my life."

The tradition of lone voyages has become so established among British sailors that round-the-world trips are relatively commonplace.

Only the speed in which they are completed, or the handicaps that are overcome, make them extraordinary.

Leslie Powles, 70, dubbed the Ancient Mariner, returned from his third round-the-world voyage on Sunday. The four-month trip nearly cost him his life. He went off-air, and friends feared he had been lost at sea.

Despite being knocked unconscious, and running short of food and water he survived aboard his 34ft sloop, *Solitaire*. He rationed himself to a quarter of a tin of corned beef and two spoonfuls of rice a day and finally sailed into Lymington in Hampshire at the weekend.

Mr Powles said: "There was water coming in the boat all the time, but I could not move for 24 hours. I just sat there and watched it . . . I am not going to go round the world again. I think three times is enough and you start to get giddy if you go round more than three times."

However, the courageous folly of Britain's solo voyagers was defended yesterday by John Reed, secretary of the World Sailing Speed Record Council, the official body set up to monitor the challenges to existing records for completing voyages.

Mr Reed said: "People have started to look at h as a challenge to break time records, which is becoming more and more difficult as they get faster and faster. It's a natural part of human endeavour. They're certainly not mad."

He added: "They're extremely keen yachtsmen who are very self-reliant, and wish to prove their abilities, which are considerable. People who are mad in yachts jump overboard or drown."

Leading article, page 13

Singular pleasure: *Samantha Brewster (left) in her yacht, Health Insured* after becoming the first woman to sail the 'wrong way' round the world; Clare Francis (above), who crossed the Atlantic in 1973; and Chay Blyth (below), who was first to circumnavigate the globe the wrong way

Misplaced love that makes women's lives a misery

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

For six months she tolerated his presence in her life, at first more irritated than anxious as he began following her home from work, and standing close up behind her on the station platform and in the train.

Then he took to standing outside her house all night. Whatever the hour, whatever the weather, if she looked out of the window she would see him across the street. She wanted it to stop but the police seemed powerless against the man who stalked her.

The woman, a client of Dr Paul Mullen, a British forensic psychiatrist at Monash University in Melbourne and a world authority on stalking behaviour, was very strong mentally. She thought she could cope, Dr Mullen said - until the evening when she scored her first small victory over the man.

He was following her home from work when she darted into a shop. She went out of the back door and ran to the station convinced she had given him the slip. Then she saw him; the top of his head appeared over the embankment, and she watched mesmerised as he scaled a wall, slithered down the steep slope to the railway line and braved the live rails and trains to reach the platform. He climbed up and took his usual position behind her. That was when she "freaked out", Dr Mullen said.

Today the Government launches its consultation document on anti-stalking legislation, and Dr Mullen has added his voice to calls for Britain to follow the United States and Australia with laws to protect the victims and improve access to psychiatric help for the perpetrators who he said can be cured of their obsessional behaviour.

One in seven victims of stalking experience post-traumatic distress syndrome and one-quarter of them think about suicide, Dr Mullen told an international meeting of psychiatrists in London yesterday. For his former client, the breaking point came with the realisation that her stalker would put his own life at risk in order to be close to her.

"She thought 'if he would do that, what wouldn't he do' ... What destroys people is not a dramatic incident or physical assault but the apprehension persistence of someone in their lives, of not knowing what they will do next," Dr Mullen said.

"In fact many of the victims are relieved if an assault is made because then they have some recourse to law."

His study of 80 victims of stalkers, presented to the meeting of the Association of European Psychiatrists, is one of the most detailed to date. It reveals the most common form of harassment is sending unwanted flowers, chocolates, pizzas and pornographic magazines. But there are more sinister variations: one woman was sent a beheaded cat, another a pig's head with a threat nailed on it, and two were sent voodoo dolls impaled with pins. Two victims moved countries to evade their stalkers, from New Zealand to Australia, only to be followed there. Many are forced to change jobs.

Most stalkers are men but woman also stalk men and Dr Mullen has studied eight cases where women were stalked by other women. "The motive is not always sexual," he said. "One of the most persistent women stalkers was looking for the ideal friend. She was heterosexual but stalked other women because she was looking for a sort of mother figure."

More than half the victims were threatened by a stalker and one-third were physically assaulted. However, one stalker just wanted his victim to listen; he wrestled her to the ground, sat on her chest and read a love poem to her.

One-third of the victims had no acquaintance or only a very casual acquaintance with their shadow. One-third were former lovers - the stalker could not believe that he or she had been rejected and was driven by rage and incomprehension, or a desire to wreak revenge. Another third had met at work, and the obsession may have been prompted by a missed promotion or failure to get a new job.

A minority of the perpetrators suffer from erotomania, Dr Mullen said. This is a mental disorder which manifests as a morbid and delusional preoccupation with a person whom they "love", and whose behaviour to them is always interpreted as love. Another group are the socially incompetent for whom this is the closest they can get to having a relationship. Many are intellectually disabled, he said.

Finally, there is a tiny number of dangerous, predatory stalkers who take sadistic pleasure in the fear they induce in their victims, and may make a sexual or violent attack. Some serial killers exhibit this pattern.

Men driven by obsession

Robert Hoskins

The singer Madonna testified against Robert Hoskins (left) in a United States court last March, telling the judge that she had been suffering from nightmares and even felt forced to sell her house because of his unwelcome attentions. Hoskins, 38, was later sentenced to 10 years in prison for stalking and making terrorist threats. The court was told that he had vowed to marry Madonna or cut her throat. He was arrested when a bodyguard shot him as he tried to break into her estate.

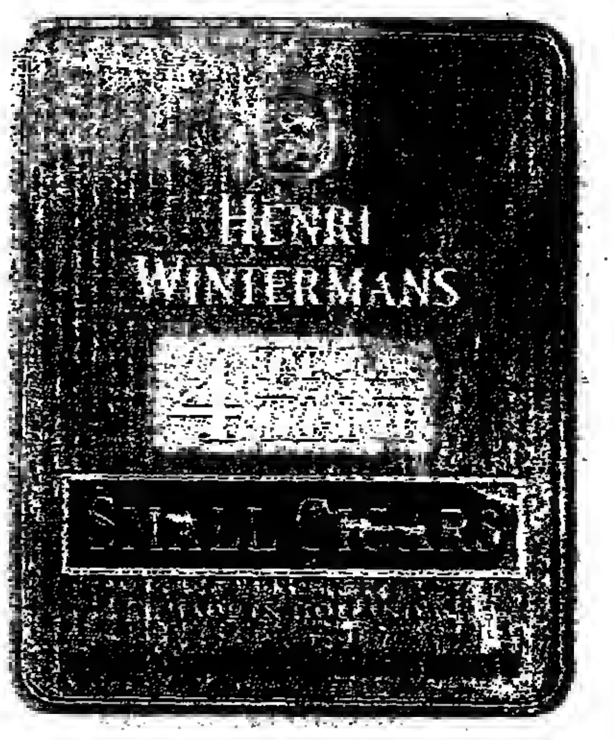
Klaus Wagner

The Princess of Wales's stalker was Klaus Wagner (right), 37, who was arrested outside Harrods as the Princess arrived for a charity ball on 8 March this year. He was committed to the Claybury psychiatric hospital, but charges of breach of the peace were dropped. Ha was arrested three times from January-March for causing a disturbance in connection with the Royal Family. He practised as an orthopaedic surgeon in Britain for six years, but was jailed for making out false prescriptions for morphine last October.

John Hinckley

Jodie Foster was stalked in the United States by John Hinckley (left), now 41, who attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan on 30 March 1981, and claimed it was a stunt to impress Foster. A court found Hinckley not guilty by reason of insanity and he is now incarcerated in a mental hospital in Washington. His obsession with the actress began after her role as 12-year-old prostitute in the film *Taxi Driver*. Hinckley showered Foster with love letters and phone calls.

It's true: the best things do come in small packages.



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MPs' rise: Ministers move to cool the backbenchers

Cut in petrol perk fuels Tory revolt on pay

COLIN BROWN and JOHN RENTOUL

The Tory MP Nicholas Winterton was last night threatening to lead a Conservative backbench revolt over a threat to cut MPs' mileage allowances from 74p per mile to 47p as part of their pay package.

The move was gathering support among disgruntled Labour MPs who say they could be worse off, in spite of a proposed 26 per cent increase, because of the proposals. The Government, which is calling on MPs to support pay restraint, was last night seeking to play on the discontent by tabling a motion for a vote tomorrow enabling the MPs to keep their 74p mileage allowance providing they limit their pay rise to 3 per cent.

There were also signs of a split in the Shadow Cabinet over Tony Blair's decision to back John Major's call for pay rises to be limited to 3 per cent while allowing a free vote. Some were furious with Mr Blair. "If we don't get the pay rise now, we will never get them under a Labour Government," said one of Mr Blair's colleagues.

Winterton: Threatening to lead a Tory rebellion

Mr Winterton, MP for Congleton, will table an amendment to seek a review of mileage allowances. That would allow the MPs to vote for the 26 per cent pay rise, increasing MPs' pay from £34,085 to £43,000 a year.

Labour MPs calculated that the taxed pay rise would deliver a net £5,600 a year increase, but they would lose at least £5,400 with the cut in mileage allowances for those with large cars who do 20,000 miles a year. As the allowance is taxed, they would be worse off.

Soundings among MPs yesterday suggested a close vote, with many Labour frontbenchers and whips intending to ignore Mr Blair's lead, and the backbenches of both main parties in favour of a pay rise.

Despite Mr Blair's declaration that he favoured restraint, he is expected to miss the vote. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, declared yesterday that he would be "voting for restraint".

In January, 298 MPs, nearly half the membership of the House, signed a motion calling for the issue of their pay to be referred to an independent body. Nearly 200 of the MPs who signed were Labour, including frontbenchers and whips. Most Labour signatories were yesterday intending to vote for the proposed pay rise.

"If you ask for an independent review you have to stand by that," said Angela Eagle, MP for Wallasey. "It is ridiculous that the Prime Minister's advisers earn more than he does, but the quid pro quo has to be that MPs have no outside earnings at all."

Senior Tory backbenchers agreed: "What is the point of calling for an independent review if you're not going to accept the findings?" asked one. He predicted many ministers and their aides would stay away.

The main group of Labour MPs who signed the January motion who say they will not vote for the review body's recommendation are leftwingers. Tony Banks said: "I am not voting for my own money." He signed the original motion to take the decision away from MPs, he said.

Profits from misfortune: The Charles and Diana no-more-loving cups Photographer: Nicholas Turpin

Royal divorce is a trade for mugs

JOJO MOYES

Divorce: it's a mug's game. Or soon will be, if demand for the one marked "Charles and Di Divorce" is anything to go by.

The specialist china company J and S Chown in Cornwall has increased its original production run of 300 mugs – showing the Welsh and Union flags drooping and the Prince and Princess looking away from each other – to 2,200.

With the multi-million pound divorce due possibly within weeks, collectors worldwide are requesting the £9.99 bone china memento.

"We didn't feel comfortable about doing it at first," said Wendy Chown, the company's sales director, but "It could do us some lovely business."

"Andy and Fergie Divorce" mugs are also planned. Miss Chown would not say whether the design featured toes.

The first royal mug was for Charles II's accession in 1660.

Commons couple drive hard bargain

Nicholas Winterton, the Tory MP for Macclesfield, makes no excuses for driving a £45,000 Range Rover which does about 20 miles to the gallon on the motorway, **writes Colin Brown.**

He and his wife Ann, who is the Conservative MP for the neighbouring constituency of Congleton, travel together on Mondays the 180 miles from Cheshire to Westminster.

Their 4.6 litre Range Rover qualifies for a mileage allowance at the rate of 74p a mile, which works out at £133.20. He does not believe claiming the expenses of £266 for the round trip is excessive.

"Two rail tickets would be considerably more than that," he said. Travelling by Range Rover, said Mr Winterton, ensures he is "comfortable and safe" on the journey.

"When you are going to do 180 miles on the motorways that are a harrowing to say the least, you should should be able to arrive in comfort and in a reasonable frame of mind, and sufficiently alert."

Rail travel would not be possible for two busy MPs keeping a flat in London and a house in the country, he added. They have to travel each Monday with their cases, food, which they bring from the constituency, clean clothes and clean sheets.

"Several people have said to me over the weekend that it is not the right time [for MPs to make demands about pay].

"Frankly, there is never a right time. I am considering putting down an amendment saying this is a matter which should be resolved by a committee because I don't think Parliament should say what sort of car MPs should drive."

Mr Winterton is also concerned that retiring MPs would lose some of their pension entitlement if the pay rises – which are linked to pensions – are pegged to 3 per cent.

DAILY POEM

Propitiation

By Elma Mitchell

He always apologized to statues
And sometimes to furniture, when he bumped into it.
He felt no superiority to insects
But removed them carefully from kitchen surfaces.

He sat at the wheel of a car,
Thinking of a world without predators
Or generals.
A moment's absentmindedness –
A child on a bicycle died.

No, no, it didn't. It never happened.
But he lived all his life with this catastrophe
In imagination, as he ferried his insects
To places of safety, and apologized to statues.

Last summer Penguin relaunched its *Modern Poets* series, which first appeared in 1962. This June saw the publication of volume 6 (U A Fanthorpe, Elma Mitchell, Charles Causley) and volume 7 (Donald Davie, Samuel Menashe, Allen Curnow). It is timely and welcome space for Elma Mitchell, now in her seventies, a poet who is well known in the West Country, but has perhaps not reached the wider audience she deserves. Her four collections are published by Peterloo Poets.

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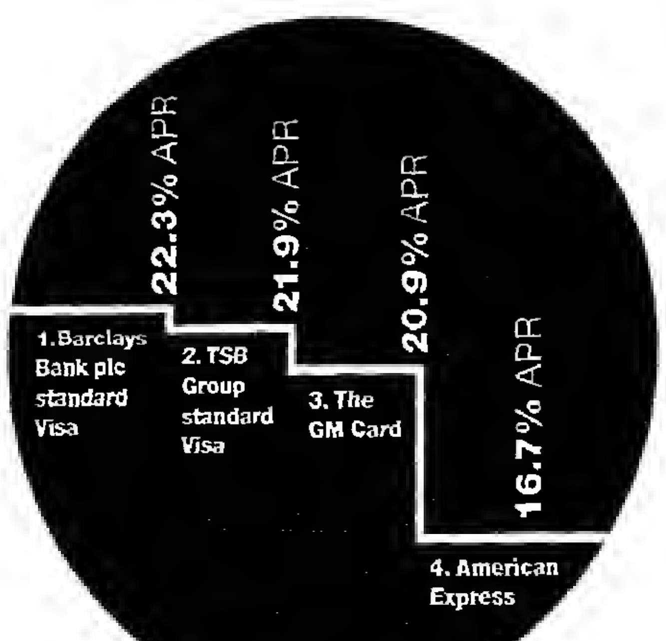

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news

Airline peace hopes take off as Tube workers dig in

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Three disputes, three union leaders with very different styles

Alan Johnson of the Communication Workers believes that strikes at the Royal Mail could damage Labour's electoral chances, and that the Government may lift the Royal Mail's monopoly.
Mr Johnson, 36, was educated in Chelsea but his first job was as a postman in Slough, his "union home". In 1992 he became the youngest general secretary in the history of the old postal workers' union. As a member of the Labour Party's national executive he has supported the Blair reforms and backed the abolition of Clause IV.

Chris Darke is responsible for some of the most conservative trade unionists in Britain. His leadership of the British Airline Pilots' Association could be seen as ironic given his past in the Communist Party and his present position described as "left of centre" Labour.
Mr Darke, aged 46, has proven himself as a union professional rather than a political radical in his 26 years as a full-time union officer. A fashionable dresser and an amateur pilot, Mr Darke began as an apprentice with GEC in Birmingham and became a design engineer at Lucas.

Lew Adams, 66, is very much a traditional trade unionist wedded to the old-fashioned ethos of the Associated Society of Locomotives, Engineering and Firemen – of which he became General Secretary nearly three years ago. He started work as an engine cleaner when he was 15. In the Seventies he led a series of train drivers' strikes. He bitterly opposes the privatisation of British Rail, but believes fragmentation of the industry could help push up drivers' wages. A former Labour councillor, he was an outspoken critic of Tony Blair's campaign to abolish the party's Clause IV.

Fresh talks are to be held in an attempt to avert an indefinite strike by pilots at British Airways due to begin next Tuesday.

As Bob Ayling, chief executive of the airline, responded to the union's call for negotiations, Tube drivers in London staged their third 24-hour strike over working time.

Management said it improved strike-day services to run nearly 40 per cent of the timetable with the help of the RMT transport union. Future assistance may not be forthcoming, however. Leaders of the RMT are due to announce the result of a strike ballot among their own members tomorrow.

Lew Adams, general secretary of the drivers' union, and his executive are due today to consider an invitation to take the dispute to the conciliation service Acas. The union claims management reneged on a promise to reduce working time, and some members of the executive may argue for further action after the stoppage already scheduled for next Tuesday.

At the Royal Mail, talks continued ahead of today's meeting of the Communication Workers' Union postal executive, which is due to decide whether to intensify industrial action over planned productivity changes – particularly the issue of "team-working". Postal services have already been disrupted by two 24-hour walkouts and some members of the executive are pressing for 48-hour strikes. But Alan Johnson, joint general secretary of the CWU, will argue for further contact with the Post Office.

The call for talks at British Airways came from Chris Darke, general secretary of the British Airline Pilots' Association, and is the first sign of hope in the dispute since the union announced a 90 per cent vote in favour of action. Mr Darke said he had "positive suggestions" that he hoped would lead to progress. An airline spokesman said the company was pleased there would be a return to the negotiating table and that BA would "listen very carefully" to what Balpa had to say.

The union's initiative came after a meeting yesterday of 30 Balpa representatives. There has been little contact with management since the strike vote among the 3,000 pilots and other flight crew was announced.

The union had argued that the company should offer an improvement in the 3.6 per cent package before talks could begin. However, Mr Darke said he had decided to take the initiative to break the impasse. "We have been disappointed and puzzled by the company's refusal to table any new offer. That is unfair to everyone, especially holidaymakers," he said.

"We have some positive suggestions to make to the company which we hope will enable them to move forward."

BA has argued that many of the pilots have not understood the company's true position, particularly at Gatwick.

The airline has put forward a two-year package with a 3.6 per cent increase in the first year followed by a rise of 0.5 per cent above the inflation rate next year. Since the strike-ballot result, BA has offered an additional 10 per cent payment to lower-paid crews at Gatwick.

Planting trees may worsen droughts

KAREN BAKKER

Government plans to double the amount of forest cover in England over the next 50 years may worsen droughts, scientists are warning. They have found that trees decrease the amount of rainfall reaching rivers, reservoirs and underground aquifers.

Leaves on the trees intercept rainfall before it hits the ground, allowing it to evaporate back into the atmosphere at much higher rates than from short vegetation. Just as clothes pegged out onto a line dry more quickly than those lying on the ground, tall trees with many leaves are more efficient evaporation surfaces than grass or crops.

Studies of upland evergreen forests by scientists at the Government's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Wallingford have found an increase in evaporation rates in forested areas of up to 100 per cent compared to treeless catchments. In some upland areas of Scotland, researchers have found this leads to a 20 per cent reduction in run off to reservoirs.

Now hydrologists are concerned about the impact on water supplies of the likely large increase in lowland woodlands over the next few decades. "Community forests" are being planted on the edge of big cities, a large new National Forest has begun to grow in the Midlands, "energy plantations" of coppiced woodland are being considered, and the advent of set-aside farmland has provided further opportunities for planting. These and other policies came together last autumn when the Government announced that it wanted a doubling of England's forest cover by 2045.

Most of the new trees in the lowlands are broad-leaved species which drop their leaves in autumn, so they evaporate less water through the winter than coniferous trees. But during summer dry spells these trees take up water from the soil at far higher rates than the grassland and crops which they are replacing.

Recent research by the centre suggests that water use of some broad-leaved species may be significantly higher than previously thought. In one forest, recharge to the underground chalk aquifer was found to be reduced by 40 per cent, according to Dr Ian Calder, a hydrologist. "Planting forests now might significantly affect water resources in the long term, particularly if climate change becomes a reality," he says.

Few policy makers appear to have recognised the implications of the combined effects of tree planting and global warming. The most recent Department of Environment report on the impact of climate change in Britain, released last week, makes no mention of the implications of afforestation. And the Government's Environment Agency, which oversees water resources, has not approached the Forestry Commission.

Given the economic and aesthetic benefits of planting forests, any potential water shortages should be dealt with by an "emphasis on reducing leakage and reducing demand rather than altering vegetation," says Dr Tom Nisbet, a hydrologist at the commission.

■ Our national tree, the oak, is the baldest in the country, according to the latest Forestry Commission survey of tree condition. One in nine are missing at least half of the leaves of a tree in peak condition and just over two-thirds are missing at least a quarter. The oak, which makes up about 9 per cent of commercial tree species grown in the UK, is in distinctly worse condition than the other main commercial species: the Scots pine, the beech and the non-native commercial conifers, the Sitka and Norway spruces. Winter moths, frost damage, and a mysterious degenerative condition affecting oaks in the south and east of England in the early 1990s are to blame.

Paris fashion: The house founded with the New Look of 1947 now opens its doors to radical change

Farewell performance: Ferré being applauded by the models who showed his his last collection for Dior

Candy wrap: a simple suit enlivened with a pink wrap at Dior's show in Paris yesterday Photographs: Sheridan Morley

Ferré takes last bow at Dior

TAMSIN BLANCHARD
Fashion Editor

The Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré showed his last haute couture collection for the House of Dior yesterday in Paris. His successor has yet to be announced, but the house that Christian Dior founded with his controversial New Look collection in 1947, looks set to be revamped in the style of Givenchy, where John Galliano has generated massive publicity and blown away the cobwebs. Dior and Givenchy are both owned by Louis Vuitton/Moët Hennessy.

The "giant haystack" designer was given a standing ovation by the audience, which included Mrs Chirac and Paloma Picasso. Mr Ferré took over from Marc Bohan, who took the job from Yves Saint Laurent in 1960. Saint Laurent was the designer Dior chose to succeed him shortly before his death in 1957.

There are rumours that the American designer Marc Jacobs may take the post, but the doors must be wide open. Last season, the avant-garde minimalist designer Helmut Lang was rumoured to be taking over at Balenciaga and, in some ways, a fresh young name would put Dior back on track as the innovative house it once was. Our own Vivienne Westwood, with her flair for fashion history, could certainly be the woman for the job.

Ferré's final collection for Dior was on the theme of the Orient, with clothes for Indian princesses and an Arabian Scheherazade – a fantasy woman not far from the reality of the clients who may order a gold lace embroidered one-shoulder sari dress, or a fitted jacket encrusted in embroidery and heavy with guld lamé.

The pieces most likely to sell were the simple fitted suits, a diamanté striped trouser suit for evening, or a candy-pink column dress and mohair coat.

The model Naomi Campbell was did not seem much enamoured of the clothes she was wearing, and made rapid passages down the catwalk, making it as difficult as possible for the photographers to snap her.

Men's fashion, Section Two

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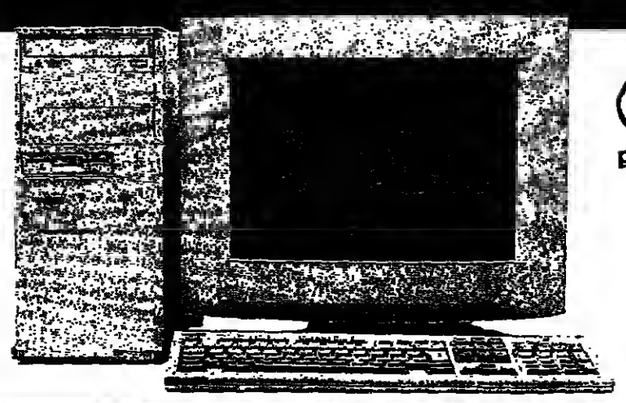

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ITV looks to costume drama in ratings war

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

ITV is to take on the genre the BBC has made its own – costume drama – in an attempt to boost its ratings this autumn, it emerged yesterday.

It is to screen an adaptation of Jane Austen's *Emma*, by Andrew Davies, who wrote the recent adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* for the BBC. It will star Kate Beckinsale as the meddling but well-meaning heroine.

Mr Davies has also written ITV's other two landmark costume dramas for this autumn: a four-part adaptation of Defoe's *Moll Flanders*, starring *The Knock*'s Alex Kingston, and an adaptation of Dennis Danvers' haunting love story, *Wilderness*.

The dramas will complement returning series, including *Soldier, Soldier, London's Burning, Taggart* and *Heartbeat*.

The controversial continuation of the *Poldark* story, filmed by HTV last year, will also hit the screens this autumn, despite the outcry at the decision not to employ Robin Ellis and Angharad Rees to recreate Ross Poldark, the Cornish mine owner, and his wife Demelza.

Challenge to the BBC: Kate Beckinsale in *Emma*

The pair played the lead roles in the hugely popular 1970s BBC series which attracted 15 million viewers weekly but they were dropped by HTV when salary negotiations failed. John Bowe and Mel Martin were asked to take up the story of the final *Poldark* novels instead.

Meanwhile, ITV also confirmed long-standing rumours yesterday that a fourth episode of *Coronation Street* will go out at 7.30pm on Sundays from late November in a bid to bump up Sunday night ratings.

Marcus Plantin, the network controller, denied the extra episode would kill enthusiasm for the soap which regularly attracts 16 million viewers.

"Granada [which makes the programme] are handling the fourth episode with consummate care. There will be new characters and a new street. We will grow the *Coronation Street* family," he said.

"It is not just eking out what's already there. Within a very short time everyone will say '*Coronation Street* on Sunday — hasn't it always been there?' The *Street* is an institution, it is part and parcel of most people's lives and the decision was not taken lightly.

"With *Coronation Street*'s fourth episode we will devise a storyline which will peak on the Sunday night but viewers will have to wait for the denouement on the Monday."

Phil Redmond, whose production company makes *Brookside*, has long argued that all soap operas will eventually go to four days a week, despite concerns that it would mean too much strain for the stars and that the programmes would inevitably become weaker as a result.

Media, page 18

Poetry in emotion: Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Algani are newlyweds, which adds an extra frisson to their performances Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Singing with love's sweet harmony

FIRST NIGHT

La Traviata
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

Married couples are enjoying a romantic renaissance. It is once more sexy to be legal.

Last week, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman made several thousand teenage hearts beat faster as they smooched in London; and last night, opera's own dream team, Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, appeared at Covent Garden together for the first time since their much publicised romance and marriage.

"To sing love duets with the person you love is *magnifique*," said Alagna before the performance in a line marketing departments fantasise about. His spouse added: "When we are together on stage, it is a reflection of our life and an extension of it which we live out on stage."

Throw in the fact that both are young and attractive, that Alagna has been described as "the fourth tenor" and that Gheorghiu is one of the most acclaimed new sopranos, and this was a very hot ticket indeed.

Theirs was not, it has to be said, quite the *Romeo and Juliet*-style story it has been painted. They were married to other people when they met four years ago in *La Bohème* at Covent Garden.

Alagna's wife tragically died of a brain tumour two years ago, leaving him with a young daughter, and Gheorgiu divorced her Romanian husband.

But their memories of those rehearsals four years ago added to the anticipation of seeing them on stage last night.

Alagna, 32, born in France of Sicilian parents, recalled: "In my mind – because of the sound I was hearing – she had to be fat. I certainly didn't expect her to be beautiful.

"She was cute, young and lovely. It was love at first sight. As I took Angela's hand in mine, I felt an actual shock ... [After that] I felt so jealous each time I'd read that she was singing with someone else."

Gheorghiu recalled that "when he burst into the rehearsal room at Covent Garden, the atmosphere changed. It was so exciting. Like electricity."

In the poignant and tragic love story of *La Traviata*, it would be hard not to generate any romantic sparks. But undoubtedly this pairing did exude a genuine excitement in their scenes together.

Alagna's tender and emotionally vulnerable tenor voice is not yet in the class of the big three, but it is compelling.

Gheorghiu has a serenity in her style that is equally attractive. And for once there was acting to match. This couple did indeed appear enraptured with one another; but then, perhaps that wasn't acting at all.

David Lister

Branson puts new spin on records business

Businessman Richard Branson is setting up a new record label, four years after he sold the original Virgin Records for £560m.

The company, provisionally called V2, is already looking for acts to sign. Initially it will concentrate on what Mr Branson referred to "quality rock", although it may later diversify into classical music.

Heading V2 is Jeremy Pearce, the former chief of Sony's division for foreign and independent bands, where he handled bands including Oasis and Suede. The official launch will be made when the company announces its first signing, probably in the autumn.

Virgin spokeswoman Mo Foster said Mr Branson had badly missed the music business, which had formed the cornerstone of his business empire.

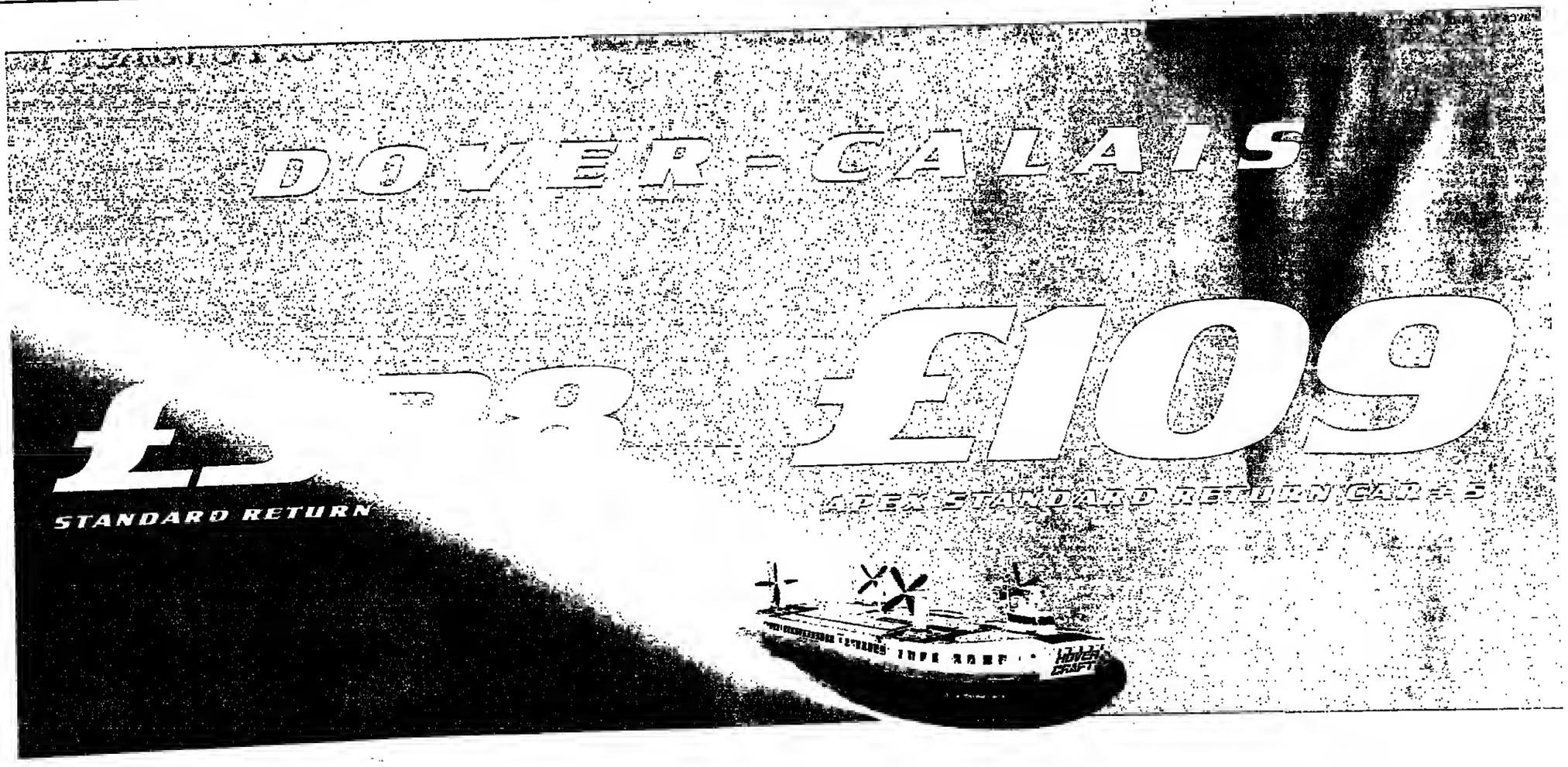
Under the terms of the deal with EMI, the buyers of Virgin Records, he had not been allowed to set up a new label until now and he had plunged back into the industry as soon as the exclusion clause expired.

"I think he has been missing the business terribly. When he sold Virgin Records he went to the staff to tell them about the decision and he left in tears," she said. "That doesn't normally happen. He is obviously very keen to be getting back into it."

Virgin Records was sold to allow Branson to concentrate on his other interests, which now include Virgin Atlantic, Virgin Megastores, Virgin Radio and Virgin Cinemas.

He founded the record label in 1970 and despite, or perhaps because of, being unmusical, made a splash with his 1977 signing, the Sex Pistols, who had been rejected by the more established record companies – including, ironically, EMI.

If the new company, which is not entitled to use the word Virgin in its title, follows in the footsteps of its predecessor, it will soon become a major player in the pop industry.



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'This hero worship is very much misplaced' – **John Carlisle MP**, on the BBC screening of the Free Nelson Mandela concert in 1990

'The ANC is a typical terrorist organisation ... Anyone who thinks it is going to run the government in South Africa is living in cloud-cuckoo land' – **Margaret Thatcher**, 1987

'How much longer will the Prime Minister allow herself to be kicked in the face by this black terrorist' – **Terry Dicks MP**, mid-1980s

'Nelson Mandela should be shot' – **Teddy Taylor MP**, mid-1980s

From 'terrorist' to tea with the Queen

Nelson Mandela: Once vilified by the Government, he will be acclaimed as a hero this week

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor
and MICHAEL STREETER

The fuss that Parliament is to make over Nelson Mandela this week will mark a stark contrast with the 20-year Commons silence that followed his imprisonment in 1962.

On Thursday, the President of South Africa is to be accorded the rare honour of addressing both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall, when ministers, MPs and peers will gather to pay homage to a world statesman.

But an *Independent* survey of Commons *Hansard* records suggests that even in the immediate aftermath of his imprisonment, Mr Mandela's name was not uttered in the chamber.

Hansard Indices, which cover speeches, statements and oral questions and answers in the Commons, as well as written questions and answers, suggest that the first time Nelson Mandela's name was mentioned in the House was on 9 March 1983, in a question from Labour MP Ken Eastham.

In his autobiography, *Conflict of Loyalty*, former Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe says that even as late as October 1987, at a press conference following the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Vancouver, Mrs Thatcher was quick to dismiss the African National Congress as "a typical terrorist organisation". Sir Geoffrey added sadly: "Absolutism still held sway."

But Mrs Thatcher was expressing a common view on the right of the Tory party.

In the mid-1980s, Conservative backbench MP Teddy Taylor said: "Nelson Mandela should be shot" – though he later claimed it was meant jokingly. "Unfortunately, I do still regard him as an ex-terrorist," he said two years ago.

In 1990, when Mr Mandela declined to meet Mrs Thatcher on a trip to London, Conservative MP Terry Dicks asked: "How much longer will the Prime Minister allow herself to be kicked in the face by this black terrorist?"

John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North, was furious at the BBC's screening of the 1990 Mandela concert in London. "The BBC have just gone bananas over this and seem to be joining those who are making Mandela out to be a Christ-like figure," Mr Carlisle said.

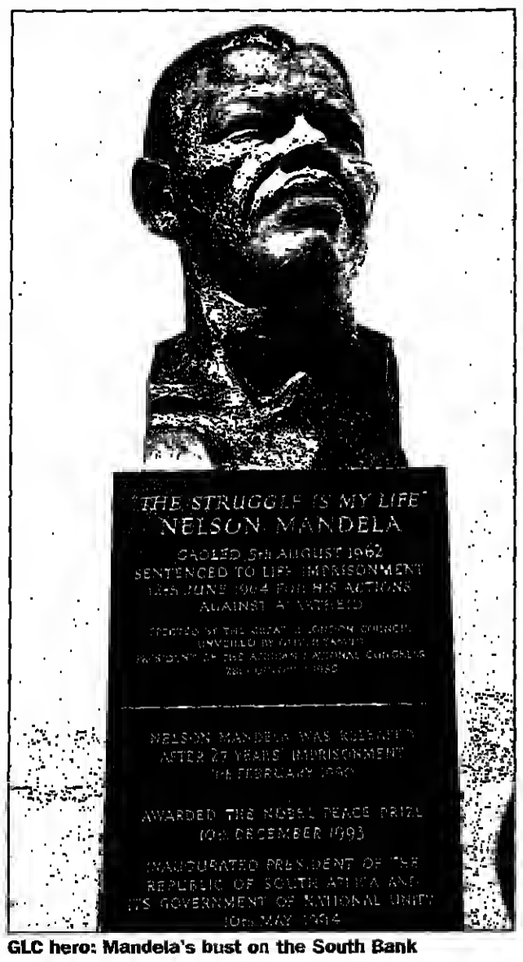
"Many will remember his record and the record of his wife as they take the podium. This hero worship is misplaced."

That same year, another Tory MP, Andrew Hunter, now chairman of the Conservative backbench committee on Northern Ireland, called for an investigation into alleged secret links between Mr Mandela's ANC and the IRA.

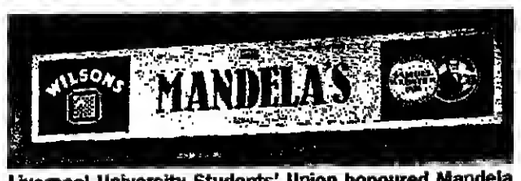
Labour frontbencher Brian Wilson yesterday challenged John Bercow, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Buckingham and former political adviser to Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, to offer regret for the abuse that had been heaped on Mr Mandela by the Federation of Conservative Students when he was its chairman.

He said FCS conferences had been littered with slogans like "Hang Nelson Mandela", and Mr Wilson added: "Mr Bercow must now make it clear that he deeply regrets the behaviour of FCS members.

"Silence would only show that we've still got the same old Tories with the same old story of intolerance and bigotry."



GLC hero: Mandela's bust on the South Bank



Liverpool University Students' Union honoured Mandela by naming its bar after him (above) and Middleborough Council named its chamber after him (below)

Freedom fighters take up free trade

The Anti-Apartheid lobby has changed tack, writes **Raymond Whitaker**

In advance of this week's visit to London by Nelson Mandela, there was a demonstration next to the huge bust of the South African president on London's South Bank. The participants, some in traditional South African costume, handed out South African oranges before going to Downing Street to hand in a petition.

Ten years ago the demonstrators would have been from the Anti-Apartheid Movement, trying to shame Britons into boycotting Outspan oranges. Now it is the movement's successor, Action for Southern Africa (Actsa), trying to shame the European Union into dropping its attempts to block exports of South African produce. "It's ironic, I know," said Actsa's director, Ben Jackson, "but trade will be the biggest issue during President Mandela's visit."

The symbolism of Mr Mandela's state visit to Britain is immense: today apartheid's most prominent political prisoner, once reviled by British government leaders, will be received with 21-gun salutes and will ride in a state carriage down the Mall with the Queen. But behind the scenes in both Britain and France, where Mr Mandela will make another state visit, he will be demanding that the EU honour its promises to help the whole of southern Africa to overcome the economic aftermath of apartheid.

Two years after the euphoria of South Africa's first free elections, the EU has failed to agree on a proposal, backed by Britain, for the creation of a free trade area with South Africa. Despite a growing trade surplus with South Africa, Germany is leading efforts to exclude nearly 40 per cent of South African farm exports – including oranges, tinned fruit and wine – from talks on better market access. Actsa argues that the EU, South Africa's most important export market, treats its products little differently than when it was an international pariah.

It was easier to rally the British public, however, when Mr Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island and apartheid was at its worst. Membership of the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) peaked around 25,000 to 30,000 in the late 1980s, when there was a permanent vigil on the pavement outside South Africa House and the giants of rock music fell over themselves to take part in the Mandela birthday concert at Wembley in 1988, bringing an influx of younger people.

The vigil came to an end in February 1990, when Mr Mandela walked out of prison after 27 years. In October 1994 the AAM, its work done, disbanded after 35 years and transformed itself into Actsa, which now has about 5,000 individual members. "There has been a lot of continuity," said Mr Jackson. "Trade unions, which were always very active in the AAM, have been very good about reaffiliating to Actsa, which was not an automatic process."

The AAM's headquarters in north London, which suffered a firebomb attack by South African agents in the early 1980s, are now closed. Actsa took over the nearby offices of the African National Congress – also the target of a bomb attack – following the ANC's transformation from an exile guerrilla movement into South Africa's governing party. But Actsa's patron is Bishop Trevor Huddleston, who founded the AAM in 1959 with Julius Nyerere, then President of Tanzania.

Dorothy Robinson, the founding executive secretary of the movement, was helping Actsa yesterday to prepare for Mr Mandela's visit. "At first the emphasis was on boycotting South African goods," she said, "but after the Sharpeville massacre in 1960 our work multiplied. Apart from seeking international sanctions and the release of political prisoners, we had to campaign to save Mr Mandela from being executed for treason."

By the late 1960s the movement was beginning to realise that it was in for a long haul, said Ms Robinson. It had little encouragement in the 1970s, when repression tightened and South Africa mounted military attacks on its neighbours to keep the guerrilla movements at bay. Only in the 1980s did the sanctions campaign begin to bear fruit – and now, in the mid-1990s, Actsa is wrestling with the vital but considerably less dramatic detail of free trade.

The organisation has been given a grant of £80,000 from South Africa to organise and catalogue the AAM's archives, which will be housed in the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Is there still a warehouse full of "Free Mandela" T-shirts somewhere? "There is some merchandise left over, which we sell off from time to time to raise money," said Mr Jackson with a laugh. "The other day we had some former freedom fighters from Namibia over who are now MPs. One of them asked me for a 'Free Mandela' mug to replace one he had broken. I gave him two."

None of the councils and universities which named streets, conference rooms and even a student bar after Nelson Mandela probably ever imagined the day when he would arrive in Britain as president of his country. At the time the Mandela name carried the status of a myth. Nobody had seen him since the 1960s, and the British taboo on creating memorials to living politicians hardly seemed applicable. Yet here he is. Mr Mandela's state visit, however, is simply likely to enhance his position as a secular saint, a living symbol of South Africa's redemption from apartheid, after whom it is entirely appropriate to dignify municipal and educational facilities.

But there is an irony here: in South Africa the predicted rush to attach his name to every avenue and airport formerly entitled after the heroes of white supremacy has not materialised. Mr Mandela has shown admirable reluctance to allow this – unlike Zimbabwe, for example, where the main street of every city and town is now named after President Robert Mugabe.

Raymond Whitaker

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HEALTH SECTION

The Tories say we do, Labour say we don't. In today's Health Management Section Chris Ham takes a more balanced look at the burgeoning costs of the N.H.S's Management Bureaucracy.

For all the latest news and appointments in the Health Sector turn to

pages 8 - 9

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international

Corsican bomb raises spectre of lawlessness

Mary Dejevsky reports on an attack that reveals more than a 'vendetta'

Bastia — They named a street after Sicily's assassinated anti-mafia judge, Giovanni Falcone, in this Corsican port at the weekend. In the full glare of the midday sun, with the heat radiating off the white and sandy stone of the new estate and the bloe-green sea glistening far below, the mayor of Palermo unveiled the oew street sign with a determined swish of southern panache: Rue du Juge Falcone.

It was a simple ceremony, watched by perhaps 150 people and a few dozen more from the windows and balconies of their new flats. There were some well-choseo words from the mayor of Bastia, Emile Zeccarelli, considerably more words from the mayor of Palermo, and a short epilogue from the prefect of northern Corsica, then the anthems of Italy and France, in their longer versions.

But the terrible irony of the ceremony escaped no one, for it came at the end of a week that began with a car-bomb explosion in the very beart of Bastia. It brought home to Corsicans the risk that their island, too, could desceod into Sicilian-style lawlessness. The bomb in Bastia had killed one man, Pierre-Louis Lorenzi, a member of the political wing of the biggest Corsican nationalist movement; seriously injured Charles Pieri, the leader of the same group, and burt another 14 other people who just happened to be in the vicinity.

Apart from the extent of the injuries, what shocked was the fact that the bomb had been timed to go off in broad daylight, in the centre of the city, in full view of everyone. In Corsica, people have grown used to the sort of sporadic violence that lurks in dark coroers, at night, and can be dismissed as personal vendetta or petty delinquence next day. Bastia's bomb seemed like an open challenge.

In his speech on Saturday, the mayor, who had come straight from an emergency meeting of his left-wing coalition's city councillors, insisted that the only way to fight organised crime and terrorism was through "democratic institutions and legality". The prefect, looking grave and northern, in sombre suit and tie, spoke of the need to foster respect for the law, and stood extra-straight and solemn through the national anthems. The choice of the long forms of the oational anthems, – the *Marseillaise* punctuated with mock-cannoo fire – like the proliferation of French and Italian flags, and the shiny "Republique Française" badges oo every lamppost, seemed to say one thing: "The State is still in charge here."

The message from Bastia as a whole, bowever, is more ambiguous. On the face of it, this city of pastel stone on the island's north-east coast, differs little from any other Mediterranean port except in the luxuriance of its vegetation. The palms and cypresses, pines and chestnuts, enlivened by banks of red and white oleanders, hide all but the tiled roofs of apartment blocks and villas.

There is a working harbour for the giant ferries from Marseilles and Livorno, a recently built marina, and the old port – ancieot focus of the city – with its baroque church of St John the Baptist, looking out on the dozens of fishing and sailing boats in the harbour.

For France, though, even for Mediterranean France, Bastia looks not just southern, and not just poor, but misgoverned. There are as many expensive German and Japanese cars as in Paris, but the city itself is clearly failing to thrive.

The picture-pretty old port, surrounded by faded Italianate palazzos and warebouses, would be an asset to any town with ambitions as a tourist centre, but it is decrepit to the point where three bomb-damaged shopfronts are not immediately apparent. Only the charring and a ragged Corsican flag give away where the bomb exploded. Almost a week later, jagged glass is still uncollected and unreplaced. Letters still lie in the hallway of the shop that served as the offices of Pieri's recently formed security company.

The signs of state power and the resistance to it are everywhere. Entering the city from the north, the first big building, being extended to more than double its present size, is the *gendarmerie*. Then the town hall, with a high fence, police guards, and tricolour. The prefecture – a big, modern edifice in the new, upper city – has no board ontside; its only form of identification is the bus stop outside, labelled "prefecture" in tiny letters. The railings are 10ft high, and spiked; abundant barbed wire fills any gaps.

Down in the older part of town, the central post office is covered in nationalist graffiti, as though it has been abandoned to their cause. Any other blank wall is either covered in "Free Corsica" slogans, or evidence of clumsy recent painting. There are far fewer cash-dispensing machines than there would be in a city of similar size on the mainland, and oooe on the peninsula north of Bastia. Apparently, they get blown up. The absence of litter-bins is equally telling. In the streets and cafés it is the gruff Italian-sound of the Corsican language that you hear, not French.

Twenty kilometres to the south lies the village of Lucciana, a collection of stone houses and a church perched on a hillside over a ravine. Lucciana's mayor was murdered two years ago, the first and so far only elected representative to have been killed in 20 years of violence.

A steep holding wall above the main road is daubed with tributes to the FLNC – the military wing of Pieri and Lorenzi's Conculta movement – and its martyrs. Past the village proper, the road is lined with family vaults, ornate and flower-strewn, behind padlocks and railings.

A little further on, the Lucciana cemetery, clustered round a big, ruined church, is arranged on terraces shaded by cypresses and overlooking the sea. The sickly scent of hundreds of flowers is overpowering. Piled up by a family vault on the left, impossible to miss, are dozens of wreaths, bouquets and plaques, each with a message of condolence. The night shift at the hospital where he died sent a wreath, regretting they could oot save him. But in pride of place stands the wreath from the terrorist group, the FLNC.

In Bastia, everyone, from the mayor down, fears a revenge attack for Lorenzi's death, but still no one seems to know who planted the bomb, or why. For once, though, the authorities are looking beyond the standard explanation – that it's just in the Corsican tradition of vendettas – and taking seriously the threat to law and order. As the mayor and the prefect both implied in their tributes this weekend, however, Corsica is still waiting for its Judge Falcone.

Flattering to deceive: Despite its picture-pretty old port, Bastia looks not just poor but misgoverned

Photograph: Robert Harding

Socialist rebels threaten Gonzalez

Leaders of the Spanish Socialist Party, narrowly defeated in the general elections last March, are facing an incipient rebellioo in the ranks, *writes Elizabeth Nash*.

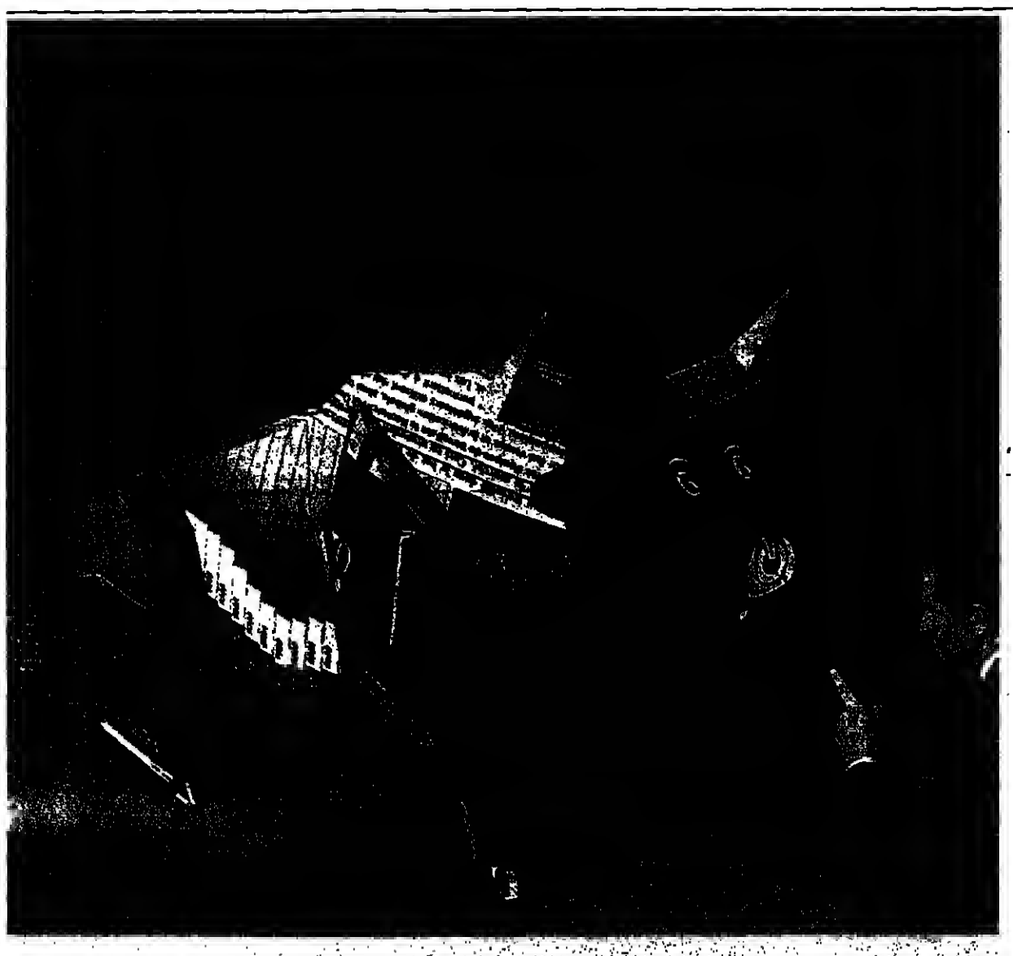
Regional barons and disaffected former ministers have been urging that a special congress be called to replace the existing leadership, including Felipe Gonzalez as party leader.

The mutiny was sparked by two recent corruption scandals within the party. In the first, the regional leader in Navarra quit after being accused of siphoning off party funds into his private Swiss bank account.

In the second, an Andalucian party boss was suspended on suspicion of taking money for granting the right-wing mayor of Marbella, Jesus Gil y Gil, unauthorised building permission.

The party was initially relieved after it prevented prevented the conservative Popular Party from winning an outright majority at the polls in March.

But the party has made a feeble opposition debut. Mr Gonzalez said that he wanted to allow Jose Maria Aznar time to establish himself as Prime Minister, and said that he would take a political holiday until September.



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'Hawk' clips Israeli PM's wings

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

It is Benjamin Netanyahu's biggest defeat since he became Prime Minister. As he flew off to Washington yesterday the Israeli parliament was creating a custom-made ministry for General Ariel Sharon, the leader of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, whom Mr Netanyahu has tried and failed to keep out of his cabinet as "a persistent dissident".

In the aftermath of his election victory five weeks ago, it must all have looked easy. Mr Netanyahu had won largely thanks to General Sharon's success in uniting the right and cultivating religious leaders. But the new Prime Minister showed no enthusiasm for giving a government job to his former chief lieutenant.

What Mr Netanyahu may not have known is that his distrust of General Sharon was only equalled by General Sharon's distrust of him. The general had taken out an insurance policy in the shape of a mutual assistance pact with David Levy, the Foreign Minister, who twice threatened to resign unless General Sharon became a minister.

In the end, Mr Netanyahu's attempt to treat General Sharon like an Israeli Falstaff – whom the 68-year-old hero of the far right vaguely resembles – ended in humiliation for the Prime Minister. As Mr Netanyahu explained the necessity of creating a new Ministry of National Infrastructure from the podium of the Knesset yesterday he smiled ingratiatingly at General Sharon, who sat staring grumpily ahead.

The dispute was not about ideology, though General Sharon's inclusion in the cabinet will make it more difficult for Mr Netanyahu to show any flexibility towards the Palestinians. Sacked as Defence Minister in 1982 after the massacre of Palestinians at Sabra and Chatila in Beirut, General Sharon calls Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, a "war criminal".

Mr Netanyahu is good at shrugging off setbacks. Yesterday he played down the row over General Sharon saying: "Dramatisation adds spice to life." But his attempt to marginalise his old enemies in the Likud party, like Dan Meridor at Finance and David Levy at the Foreign Ministry, has failed. He now faces a cabinet filled with his enemies.

Since he is directly elected, Mr Netanyahu cannot be deposed, but his efforts to remodel the Israeli Prime Minister's Office along the lines of the White House are not going well. Even the attempt to promote his wife Sara as First Lady is foundering after she was denounced by two of her former nannies for mistreating them.

Personally and politically, Mr Netanyahu, who meets President Clinton today, remains a mystery to Israelis. On policy, he repeats his campaign theme that he will provide greater security, but without making significant concessions to Arab or Palestinian demands.

In the rest of the Middle East this looks like the end of the peace-for-land formula which underlies the Oslo peace agreements. Mr Netanyahu, for his part, blandly says: "What is happening is that the Arabs are adapting – the Palestinians, the Syrians and others – adapting to the new reality."

Mr Netanyahu is expected to tell President Clinton that Mr Levy will meet Mr Arafat and he will then meet him himself. The Israeli press says he is unlikely to spell out Israeli intentions on withdrawal from most of Hebron or the future of Orient House, the PLO headquarters in East Jerusalem.

But in a US election year, President Clinton, who did all he could to keep Shimon Peres as Israeli premier, will be eager to announce all is well with his Middle East policy. Overall, Mr Netanyahu should have an easier ride than he has had in Israel.

Essay, page 14

French admit ex-minister's aides bugged

BERNARD EDINGER
Reuter

Paris — The French defence ministry confirmed yesterday that it had ordered wire-taps on two senior aides to former defence minister François Léotard for unspecified "national security" reasons.

The statement was made after *Le Monde* reported that the surveillance was aimed at discovering whether cash from Saudi arms sales had been diverted to former prime minister Edouard Balladur's presidential campaign.

The disclosure gave a new dimension to scandals over alleged illegal political funding, including that of President Jacques Chirac's Gaullist party.

Prime Minister Alain Juppé and a special commission had approved the wire-taps, as required by law, it said. The commission which oversees wire-taps, headed by a member of France's highest administrative court, said the telephone interceptions were authorised within legal guidelines "which unambiguously exclude any political motives".

Mr Léotard was a senior organiser of Balladur's unsuccessful campaign for the 1995 presidential election, in which Chirac, a fellow Gaullist, defeated him. *Le Monde* said in a front-page story that Chirac's entourage had suspected that in 1993 and 1994, commissions on arms sales to Saudi Arabia, worth hundreds of millions of dollars, had gone to Balladur and his supporters.

Le Monde said at least three officials had been subject to wire-taps. It identified them as François Lepine, now regional prefect of the Franche-Comte area of eastern France, Patrice Molle, currently deputy chief of Léotard's personal staff, and Colonel Louis-Pierre Dillais.

Mr Dillais, an intelligence specialist in Mr Léotard's private office, is reported to have coordinated the sinking of the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* in New Zealand in 1985. *Le Monde* said Mr Léotard's successor, Charles Millon, ordered the wire-taps after Chirac appointed him to succeed Léotard.

Mr Leotard commented: "I urge the prime minister to explain this practice, which is both astonishing and unjust towards military men or senior officials who have served their country honourably."

Residents forced to flee their homes in Xuanzchou, Anhui. Photograph: Reuter

Floods kill more than 400 in China

Peking (Reuter) – Southern China mopped up yesterday after some of the worst floods in a century killed more than 400 people, with farmers replanting crops and troops buttressing river embankments.

With the death toll at least 405 in six provinces and expected to rise as more bodies were dug out from landslides or found in collapsed homes, officials were on alert for more storms as the annual typhoon season neared.

Workers building the world's biggest water control project, the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze river, took precautions in case of flooding and opened sluices to reduce the water level, state television said.

"Crops have suffered some serious damage and in some areas are still swamped by water," said an official of the Chinese Red Cross. "There will be some partial grain shortages in disaster areas in the next one or two months and we are planning to transport grain to those areas."

Officials estimated damage from floods that have hit the provinces of Hubei, Guizhou, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangxi and Guangxi at over $2bn with 3.3 million acres and [illegible] million people affected.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Turkey's political secularism was shattered yesterday when the Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, crowned his marathon bid for power by narrowly winning a vote of confidence in Parliament. MPs voted narrowly to approve Mr Erbakan's coalition with the pro-Western conservative True Path Party of Tansu Ciller, ratifying Islamist control of the government for the first time in the 73 years of the Turkish republic and reversing a decades-old taboo. "A new era has begun in Turkey," Mr Erbakan said. "We will work day and night with the spirit of worship." The moment of triumph for Mr Erbakan, 70, and his Welfare Party followed months of manoeuvres that forced the secular élite to cede the Islamists a permanent place at Turkey's political table. *Reuter – Ankara*

Ecuador's populist candidate beat a right-wing free market reformer in Ecuador's presidential run-off election on Sunday. Abdala Bucaram, a self-proclaimed saviour of the poor and opponent of the establishment, facing a minority in the new Congress, immediately held out an olive branch to foes and hope to a business community that feared he might derail economic reforms. Mr Bucaram, a lawyer from the centre-left Roldosista Party, who failed in two previous presidential attempts, helped win this third bid by captivating the poor with his fiery attacks on the reforms that have yet to benefit many, and on a discredited political establishment. A 44-year-old former athlete, he is known as "The Crazy One" for his flamboyant personality. He donned a Batman suit in a previous campaign and accused local banks of being linked to Colombian drug cartels and the CIA. *Reuter – Quito*

Pressure has increased on Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader indicted as a war criminal, to step down after the international community threatened to disqualify his party from Bosnian elections. And prosecutors at the Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal in The Hague urged major powers to arrest Mr Karadzic and his military commander, General Ratko Mladic, and hand them over to stand trial for genocide. The call came as UN investigators began to unearth mass graves of massacre victims, starting with Muslims killed in the conquest of Srebrenica a year ago. *Reuter – Sarajevo*

Ukraine's civilian defence minister was dismissed by the president, Leonid Kuchma, yesterday. Valery Shmarov was the sole civilian defence minister in the former Soviet Union outside the Baltic states. A statement from Mr Kuchma's office said Mr Shmarov had been "freed from his duties in connection with his request to that effect". He had been under fire from both nationalists and left-wingers for building a close relationship with Nato. *Reuter – Kiev*

Storms have claimed 17 lives in South Africa, police said, after melting snow revealed three bodies on the streets of towns yesterday. They said eight people had died of exposure while nine suffocated as they huddled around coal fires burning in unventilated shacks. Two days of snowfalls over wide parts of the country blocked major roads, stranded motorists and trapped hikers and climbers. Nationally, the weather bureau said the snowfalls were the worst since June 1964. Some of the heaviest falls occurred in the high-lying eastern part of Free State province, blocking the main artery from Johannesburg to Durban. *Reuter – Johannesburg*

Pilgrims and sightseers are flocking to a small country church in South Australia after its priest described an image of the Virgin Mary and child on the altar wall. "When it first appeared I shared it with people in the congregation and they said, 'well, yes, if you squint your eyes, think good thoughts, maybe . . . maybe'," the Rev Andrew Nutter said yesterday. "But now everybody's coming in. Sceptics, secular humanists, atheists, doubters, people who have no time for the church, and people who are faithful, see it." *Reuter – Adelaide*

LA gears up for computer-road

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

Drivers on a stretch of freeway outside the coastal city of San Diego next summer will not speed and if they drive drunk, it may not much matter. For California, fittingly enough, is to be the venue of an experiment that may truly revolutionise the culture of the car.

Engineers broke ground this week for an ambitious practical test of the so-called driverless freeway. By August 1997, it is planned, cars equipped with sensors to pick up signals from magnetic spikes in the roadway will drive by themselves along a 7.8-mile stretch of Interstate 15 - and turn off, hopefully, at the right exit.

"There are going to be complications to work out, but this is the future of transportation," said Lynn Barton, San Diego coordinator for the consortium of government agencies, car companies and private experts involved in the first experiment of its kind in the world.

The car phone has already lowered the blood pressure of drivers stuck in jams on California's roads. Earlier this year Los Angeles' first double-decker freeway opened, with a high-speed car pool lane for environmentally responsible commuters. But the San Diego project conjures a vision of commuters being conveyed rapidly and safely along so-called smart roads while they read the paper or look at the view. Take the driver out of the equation, transport experts say, and you remove the 90 per cent of crashes blamed on human error.

Back in 1991 the United States Congress passed the Intermodal Transportation Act, aimed at developing a viable automated freeway system by 2002, and providing the bulk of $200m (£130m) in financing to do it. Governor Pete Wilson put up $5m in state funding to encourage them to choose a Californian venue. A single lane of Interstate 15 will be used, with engineers working at night to bury the three-inch spikes in the asphalt about one yard apart. Cameras and radar units mounted in the cars will enable them to move in close convoys and even avoid road debris.

Crowded freeways display classic characteristics of chaos theory – at a critical density, a single driver slowing causes a ripple effect that can create a tailback miles long. The smart cars, by contrast, would communicate their moves by radio.

The question remains whether passengers will trust their lives to a computer. The cars will stay strictly within the speed limit, Mr Barton said. That may be a disappointment for drivers in the the state, who on the rare occasions when traffic is clear like to put their foot down.

Computers presumably will be programmed to resist road rage, and the urge to lead police officers on 100mph chases. That alone could save lives. Between 1993 and 1995, a record 47 people were killed and nearly 2,000 injured in police pursuits in Southern California.

Coke and apple pie, but this Fourth of July is far from the real thing

SAIGON DAYS

There was a real live Uncle Sam, a 20-ft high inflatable Coca Cola bottle, a painting of Mount Rushmore, and more apple pie than anyone could eat, but this was no ordinary Fourth of July party. For a start, it was several days late (something to do with the government licences, someone said). Second, the weather was tropically humid (instead of the traditional sharply creased trousers, Uncle Sam wore a pair of dinky starred-and-striped shorts). And third, this was not the United States at all. Welcome to American Independence Day, in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Historical ironies don't come much sharper than this: a celebration of US bounty and democracy in Saigon, the city whose very name epitomises modern America's greatest humiliation. But 21 years after the communist victory, when helicopters carried the last of the ex-pats from the roof of the US Embassy, here they were again. There were rock'n'roll bands, a tug-of-war, and the Dunk Tuh into which luminaries of the local US-Vietnamese community could be plunged with a well-aimed rubber ball. Up on the stage, Uncle Sam silenced the band, and reeled off the list of sponsors: IBM, Chrysler, Jeep, Citibank, Mobil Oil, United Airlines, with special thanks to Baskin Robbins ice cream and Coke "our beverage supplier". "You really never been to a Fourth of July party before?" I was asked by Linda, whose husband works for a management consultancy. "We better get a beer and a burger down you, right now."

Beverage in hand, I waited by the Dunk Tuh for Michael Scown, attorney-at-law, and president of the American Chamber of Commerce of Vietnam. About this, as about much else, Vietnam's Americans have to be careful. The Communist Party, without whose approval no organisation can officially exist, has yet to give its final seal of approval to the Chamber – members cautiously refer to it as "AmCham proposed". "We're like the Hell's Angels," Mr Scown explained. "When we first started out we weren't allowed to meet, but we just stuck at it, pleaded a lot, and eventually the licences came through for this event." Licences are required for music, food, and dancing, and Michael had to give a personal undertaking that the festivities would contain no political content.

"So I want it to be on the record that this is not a speech, but a toast," he cautioned the crowd later in the evening. "In memory of that day in Philadelphia in 1726, and that small group of people who dedicated themselves to free trade, free religion and representative government."

Politics or not, these are still qualities noticeably lacking in Vietnamese society. Since Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo on Vietnam in 1994, 2,500 Americans have found their way to Ho Chi Minh City, as Saigon is now officially called. At the Fourth of July every one of the celebrants had their own story of corruption – the routine bribes and backhanders, the labyrinthine layers of bureaucracy. "We pre-censor rather than post-censor," said the Australian publisher of Vietnam's leading English language business journal, and even this does not always work. For the July issue, the magazine had prepared a celebratory pull-out bearing the names and photographs of the new politburo. Then, on the first day of the Congress, one of the nominees died. "We had to pulp the lot, orders of the Prime Minister's office – 28,500 copies, all because of that dead bastard."

Todd, a 55-year-old Vietnam War vet turned tractor executive recounted the time he found himself in a Hanoi bar with nine Vietnamese contemporaries. "They ask me what I do," he said, "and I never lie about it. So it turned out that while I'd been flying F-4s off the aircraft carriers, these boys had all been MiG pilots. We got so drunk together, by the end of the evening I had them on stage singing the first four verses of the Star Spangled Banner. That's the thing about the Vietnamese: they *love* Americans."

"We wanted to have a firework display, because it's so much a part of the Fourth of July back in the States," said Mr Scown. "But they didn't like the symbolism – Americans firing rockets over Saigon. I guess you can see the point."

Richard Lloyd Parry

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obituaries / gazette

A. G. Ogston

Alexander George ("Sandy") Ogston had a gentle but critical mind. He conveyed to his Oxford undergraduate students, of whom I was one, the need to keep in mind a simple question that is still relevant after half a century – "Is the conclusion sensible?"; or, as he would have put it, "Is it thermodynamically reasonable?"

This need for things to make sense is probably why Sandy Ogston was able to solve a theoretical biochemical problem of considerable interest at the time in the 1940s when the metabolic pathways of living organisms were being worked out by Sir Hans Krebs and others.

Several chemical steps had been considered and rejected by other investigators because they required an apparent impossibility – the paradoxical formation of only one of two equally likely asymmetric products from a symmetrical precursor. In the summer of 1948 Ogston convincingly argued in a scientific paper of fewer than 400 words that the paradox disappears if the symmetrical precursor is attached to its relevant enzyme at three points.

This three-point attachment hypothesis was widely accepted (Krebs devoted almost the whole of a chapter of his autobiography to Ogston's "penetrating theoretical analysis" in this matter), and was a factor in Ogston's election to the Royal Society in 1955. Typically, Ogston was somehow slightly embarrassed by the importance others placed on this work, because, as he would diffidently explain, the idea only took him a few moments to conceptualise.

Born in 1911, Sandy Ogston was educated at Eton and at Balliol College, Oxford, where he was a Brackenbury Scholar and gained a First in Chemistry in 1933. After a brief time as a Freedom Research Fellow at the London Hospital studying blood proteins, he was awarded his DPhil (Oxoo) in 1937, and began what was to become a period of over 20 years as a Fellow of his old college, tutoring in Physiology and lecturing in the Department of Biochemistry.

During the Second World War he was a member of the Ministry of Supply Research Team (1939-43) and of the Inter-Service Research Bureau (1943-44), where his physical chemical skills were used in attempts to develop methods of inactivating some of the awful poison gases used in the First World War.

After the war, Ogston resumed his academic studies, which seemed always to be characterised by his ability to arrive at unexpectedly simple solutions to difficult problems. Thus the solution of a complex anomaly, observed in 1935 (while at the London Hospital) when blood proteins were centrifuged, was shown 10 years later by Ogston and his student J.P. Johnston to be due to a predictable change in the concentrations of moving particles when they are slowed down by their surroundings. This Johnston-Ogston effect is of such generality that the same principles can predict the changes in the spacing of cars as they pass along a road with zones having different speed restrictions.

Another of Ogston's elegantly simple solutions to complex problems, in this case related to the strange behaviour of mixtures of proteins and long chain carbohydrates, subsequently proved relevant to the permeability of paper and gels, and even to the growth of roots.

In 1960, Ogston began what he sometimes described as the period of his life devoted mainly to helping others carry out their academic vocations, already presaged by his serving from 1955 to 1959 as chairman of the editorial board of the *Biochemical Journal*. He moved to the Australian National University as the Professor of Physical Biochemistry – a field which was the precursor of modern molecular biology, in which he was one of the earliest protagonists, in which physical methods are used to study biological processes.

He stayed in Australia until 1970, when he returned to Oxford to serve with distiction as President of Trinity College (over the wall from Balliol); the Trinity College residential building in Rawlinson Road, Oxford, is named "Ogston House" after him. After his retirement from this office in 1978, he continued to help others by serving on and eventually chairing the Council of Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, until 1984.

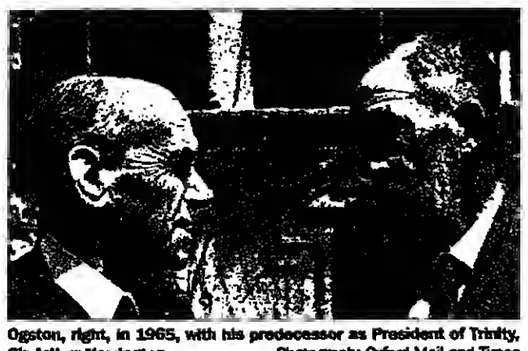
The Royal Society recognised Ogston's outstanding contributions to chemistry by awarding him the Davy Medal in 1986, and he was made an honorary fellow of Balliol (1969) and Trinity (1978) Colleges, Oxford, and of the Biology Department of York University (1990). In 1962 Ogston was elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, and the University of Uppsala (where Svedberg and Tiselius founded the field of physical biochemistry) in 1977 awarded him the honorary degree of MedD.

The tangible legacy that Ogston left to the scientific world by finding simple solutions to complex problems is clear from the published record. The intangible legacy of example and affectionate guidance that he left to his students of all ages can be illustrated by his own words from a 1970 lecture to the Australian Biochemical Society: "For science is more than the search for truth, more than a challenging game, more than a profession. It is a life that a diversity of people lead together, in the closest proximity, a school for social living. We are members one of another."

Oliver Smithies

Alexander George Ogston, biochemist: born Bombay 30 January 1911; Fellow, Balliol College, Oxford 1937-59 (Honorary Fellow 1969); Reader in Biochemistry, Oxford University 1955-59; FRS 1955; Professor of Physical Biochemistry, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU 1959-70 (Emeritus); President, Trinity College, Oxford 1970-78 (Honorary Fellow 1978); Vice-Chairman, Central Council, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham 1976-80, Chairman 1980-84; married 1934 Elizabeth Wicksteed (one son, three daughters); died 29 June 1996.

Arts and Sciences at Trinity, by June Mendoza: left to right, Lord Clark, A.G. Ogston, Sir Hans Krebs, Sir Ronald Syme, Professor R.R. Porter



Ogston, right, in 1965, with his predecessor as President of Trinity, Sir Arthur Norrington — Photograph: Oxford Mail and Times

Gerardo Rueda

Self-taught artists possess a special spirit of curiosity and invention that often stays with them and manifests itself in even their most mature and sophisticated creations. Gerardo Rueda Salaberry, to give him his full name, intended to become a lawyer, and studied law in Madrid before suddenly deciding he wanted to be a painter. He began painting landscapes in an Impressionist style derived from the French masters he so much admired, but soon moved on to more contemporary styles, influenced by Klee and Nicolas de Staël, and had his first one-man show, "*Collages y dibujos abstractos*" ("Collages and abstract drawings"), in 1954 at the Madrid gallery Abril.

Before that he had participated in group exhibitions with contemporaries like Antoni Tàpies, Manuel Millares and Manolo Rivera, exponents of abstract *arte povera* using cheap materials such as sack-cloth, plastic and pinboard.

Rueda's abstractions were usually refined, delicate, elegant expressions of his love of order, that still showed that "informal" quality of paint in keeping with a respect for "the obvious, the clear, the controlled".

He began exhibiting abroad, particularly in Latin America, that refuge of so many Spaniards during the Franco regime. He participated in the second Biennale Hispano-Americana in Havana in 1953, and in exhibitions in Caracas and Bogota. His affection for, and gratitude towards Latin America lasted all his life, and at the time of his death a large retrospective of his works, "*Trayectos*" ("Pathway"), is going the rounds of all the leading art museums of South America.

In 1960 Rueda's work was displayed at the Biennale in Venice, and while in Rome after the exhibition he became interested in the work of Giorgio Morandi and his near-abstract still-lifes. All through the Sixties his work was exhibited in the great galleries of Europe, in individual or group shows, and in 1962 be had a retrospective at the Tate Gallery in London.

His carefully constructed, perfectly balanced geometric assemblages were strengthened by the way he applied his paint, often with a bold palette, using a knife. He gradually freed himself from what might be perceived as over-rigid composition and, perhaps under the influence of Pierre Soulages and Yves Klein, released all his painterly energies in large monochrome works in various shades of grey, in black or royal blue. These were saved from monotony by accidental reliefs and various deliberate forms of surface animation, creating expanses of vital energy that occupied an almost sculptural space in the frame. This led to the creation of sculptures in wood or metal in the form of relief carvings during the 1970s.

Rueda never lost the playful, innocent spirit of the self-made artist, and on several occasions one could see him having fun with the mounting of window displays for important department stores like El Corte Inglés, and in 1991, out of a score of chosen contestants, he won first prize for the design of the entrance doors to the Spanish Pavilion at the Exposicion Universal in Seville, a monumental work that made his name and his art known to thousands of people who had never heard of him before.

But he is best known for a truly adventurous, unique architectural and artistic undertaking in the city of Cuenca where, with his friends and fellow artists Fernando Zobel and Gustavo Torner, he founded the first gallery of abstract art in Europe, housed in a visionary assemblage of *casas colgadas* or "hanging houses". No one who visits Cuenca can ever forget the liberating atmosphere of this unique museum and its exquisitely hung (in every sense) works of art, the most impressive collection of abstractions of all periods in Europe.

This was not the only public work Rueda undertook for Cuenca. Between 1990 and 1991, again possibly inspired by the work of Soulages and his semi-geometrical windows at Sainte-Foy abbey in Conques (Aveyron), Gerardo Rueda combined his passion for geometrical forms and sculpture and architecture in the construction of the noble windows of the cathedral of Cuenca, which remain for all to see as one of his major achievements.

In 1991 in Madrid Rueda participated in a collective exhibition, "*El Prado visto per doce artistas contemporaneos*" ("The Prado Viewed by Twelve Contemporary Artists"), which brought an unusual breath of visionary self-expression to the contemplation of that great museum's most celebrated works. The exhibition went on to Seville the following year, and in 1992 Rueda also showed a personal collection at the Fourth El Cairo Biennale, during which he was awarded the Medalla de Honor Especial. This was just one of the many distinguished awards presented to the artist during his lifetime, culminating in 1995 with his election as permanent member of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando.

It was in March 1996 that Gerardo Rueda had the first of three cerebral attacks, when he attended in Valencia an anthology of his works organised by IVAM (Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno), which he declared open by saying: "I always have to have direct contact with art, to bring myself to it without any intermediaries of schools or theories." That was the young self-taught beginner speaking out frankly, just as he used to do when telling anyone who would listen that he did not understand Dubuffet or Matisse. "My art is all in the emotion," he said.

Rueda: playful and innocent

James Kirkup

Gerardo Rueda Salaberry, painter and sculptor: born Madrid 23 April 1926; died Madrid 25 May 1996.

Professor Ian Carruthers

Ian Carruthers will be remembered for his major contributions to agrarian development in the world's poorer countries – particularly in irrigation economics – and for the unique external degrees in Agricultural Development which he did so much to set up at Wye College.

He was among the first to recognise that capital investment in Third World irrigation systems would inevitably be wasted if attention was not paid to operating and maintenance costs. The question of appropriate levels and methods of cost recovery was one he continuously pressed. His work on irrigation resulted in many presentations and publications, culminating in the publication with Colin Clark of a seminal book, *The Economics of Irrigation*, in 1981.

He was born in 1938 in Sidcup, the eldest of four children, and went to Sidcup and Chislehurst Grammar School where he excelled academically and in sports. Subsequently, he attended Wye College, London University's outpost in Ashfield, Kent, and graduated with a First Class degree in Horticulture in 1961. Among other activities at Wye, he established a record for throwing the cricket ball which stands to this day.

Following graduation, he undertook postgraduate studies at Oxford at the Institute of Agricultural Economics. With this training he joined Hunting Technical Services as an agricultural economist, working on the Lower Indus Project in Pakistan, then the largest irrigation programme in the world. It was this experience that set the course for his major contribution to irrigation economics.

Upon return to the United Kingdom in 1967, he was appointed to the staff of Wye College, in an ODA-funded post which required him to spend much of his time overseas. He went first to Makerere University in Uganda and subsequently to the University of Nairobi looking into irrigation and water management. At the Institute of Development Studies in Nairobi he extended his work to rural water supplies.

Back in Wye, he strengthened the teaching in overseas development and extended his work on the management of irrigation systems. The case for reform in the matter of cost recovery, which he first discussed in *The Economics of Irrigation*, was again treated in his book with Leslie Small, *Farmer Financed Irrigation: the economics of reform*, published in 1991.

But Carruthers's life was not only concerned with irrigation. He addressed all manner of policy issues in the area of agrarian development, and his interests gradually broadened and took on a global perspective. He took an early lead in the discussion of environmental issues and subsequently of concerns for social development. More recently his views on world food security have become influential at the very highest levels in this important debate.

As an independent thinker he raised many important but perhaps awkward questions. With a ready fund of ideas he was in constant demand as an adviser and consultant to such bodies as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Overseas Development Agency (ODA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Commonwealth Secretariat and other bilateral organisations. He served as a non-executive director on the main board of the Commonwealth Development Corporation and as a Council Member of the Overseas Development Institute.

Ian Carruthers made an outstanding personal contribution to enhancing the accessibility of continuing professional development in sustainable agriculture and rural development internationally. He was the originator, inspiration and driving force for the Wye College External Programme. He had the foresight to identify an international need and the ability to generate the means for meeting it. He inspired and encouraged his colleagues to commit themselves to publish books and learning materials of the highest quality and relevance.

His initiative has enabled professionals world-wide to update their knowledge and to qualify for postgraduate London University degrees. The extraordinary success of the programme is recognised by government organisations, agencies and charities around the world. In 1994, it was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize.

Carruthers's extensive network of contacts enabled him also to recognise shifts in the demand for traditional year-long courses towards the shorter, highly focused professional update. He took up the challenge on behalf of the college, which now has an extensive and successful portfolio of courses for continuing professional development. In addition he took a full part in college affairs, serving for six years on the Governing Body and as Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics between 1988 and 1991. Recognition for his work came with his Readership in Agrarian Development in 1977 and subsequently the award of the Chair of Agrarian Development at Wye in 1984.

Ian Carruthers not only made an incisive and perceptive contribution to debate on international development; he was also a plantsman of considerable standing, taking great delight in his extensive garden at Waltham on the Kent Downs. He was a horticulturist by inclination and training and had a true feel for plants. Growing a variety of herbs gave him a sense of their culinary use and he became a devoted cook, invariably preparing fine dinners that many enjoyed at his home. He lived with his second wife, Sarah Ladbury, both in England and occasionally in Cyprus. They shared an interest and expertise in social and economic development.

Carruthers: irrigation economics

Paul Webster

Ian Douglas Carruthers, agricultural economist: born Sidcup, Kent 30 August 1938; Lecturer, Reader and Professor of Agrarian Development, Wye College 1967-96; married 1961 Barbara Price (two sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1992), 1993 Sarah Ladbury; died Canterbury 24 May 1996.

Mowafak al-Allaf, diplomat, died Cairo 4 July, aged 70. Head of Syrian delegation to the peace talks with Israel 1991-95.

Barry Lineham, actor, died London 8 June, aged 67. Best known as the voice of "Mr Kipling's Cakes".

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

LANDER / BARCLAY: To Richard and Sarah, a son, Benjamin Michael Lennard, born 4 July, a brother for Rebecca.

DEATHS

BARNETT: Mathilde (Tilly), née Sittig, formerly of the BBC and the *Listener*, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, died suddenly and peacefully on 6 July 1996, aged 85. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on 12 July, family flowers, donations to Friends of Edgware General Hospital, enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Services, Edgware, 0181-952 1393.

HUGHES: Piers Heyworth, BA AMSIA, investment director. On 3 July 1996, died in hospital after a gallant fight against a long illness. One of the most genuinely civilised people. Beloved husband of Melany and wonderful father to Katherine, Robert and Anna, also dearest son of Lorna Rosbottom. Memorial service at Sherborne Abbey on Saturday 7 September at 11.30am. Donations if desired to Brian Maillon, Director of Finance, Royal Brompton Hospital, York Ward, Sydney Street, London SW3 6NP.

JANSON: Guy Janson MBE of Southover. Service of thanksgiving on Friday 12 July at Southover Church, Southover High Street, Lewes, East Sussex at 2.30pm. All enquiries to Messrs Jansons of 7 Portman Street, London W1H 0BA. Telephone 0171 493 4113.

OPENSHAW: Clare Patricia, FRCGP. Died Saturday 6 July, peacefully at home aged 39. Wife of Peter and mother of Sam, Jonathan and Madeleine. Quaker Memorial Service at Street Meeting, Somerset, at 2pm on Saturday 13 July. Celebration of her life in London in September. Her "garden is a lovesome thing, God wot", and continues to grow.

VAUGHAN: Clare Patricia, see OPENSHAW.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen receives Mr Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa at the start of his State Visit. The Prince of Wales hosts the launch of "Roots of the Future", a publication and exhibition portraying ethnic diversity in the making of Britain, at St James's Palace, London SW1. The Princess Royal, Patron, BT Global Challenge, names a yacht taking part in "The World's Toughest Yacht Race" at St. Katharine's Dock, London E1. Princess Margaret attends the State Banquet at Buckingham Palace. Princess Alexandra, Chancellor, Lancaster University, presides at ceremonies for the conferment of Degrees and Honorary Degrees at Lancaster University and opens the Centenary Building of the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Lancaster.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Irish Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 4pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. Widdicombe and Miss T. Lee

The engagement is announced from Hong Kong between Daniel, younger son of David Widdicombe QC and Mrs Anastasia Widdicombe, of London NW1, and Tania, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Kush Lee, of Hong Kong and Perth, Australia.

Birthdays

King Hassan II of Morocco, 67; Mr Peter Balfour, former chairman, Charterhouse plc, 75; Sir Phillip Bridges, former Chief Justice of the Gambia, 74; Dame Barbara Cartland, novelist, 95; Mr David Chidgey MP, 54; Mr Richard Demarco, artist, 66; Sir George Edwards, former chairman, BAC, 88; Mr Eric Halladay, former Principal, St Chad's College, Durham University, 66; Sir Edward Heath MP, former Prime Minister, 80; Mr John Heath-Stubbs, poet, 78; Mr David Hockney, painter, 59; Dame Jill Knight MP, 69; Mr Richard Neilson, High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, 59; Lord Osborne, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 59; Sir Richard Tucker, High Court judge, 66; Mr Michael Williams, actor, 61; Mr Richard Wilson, actor and director, 60; Dr Stephen Winkley, Headmaster, Uppingham School, 52.

Anniversaries

Births: Ann Radcliffe (Ann Ward), novelist, 1764; Charles Bruce Balmsfather, cartoonist, 1888; Ian Mikardo, former Labour MP, 1908. *Deaths:* Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1228; Jan van Eyck, painter, 1440; Edmund Burke, statesman, 1797; King Camp Gillette, safety-razor inventor, 1932. On this day: Henry VIII divorced Anne of Cleves, 1540; the Bahamas became independent, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Everild, St Nicholas Fleck and his Companions, The Martyrs of Gorcum (Holland) and St Veronica de Julianis.

Lectures

British Museum: Elizabeth Baquedano, "The Mesoamerican Ball Game: symbolic aspects", 1.15pm.

RIBA Architecture Centre: Michael Wilford, "Current Buildings and Projects", 6.30pm.

Joan Thirkettle

A memorial service for Joan Thirkettle will be held at noon on Tuesday 3 September 1996 at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London EC4.

Luncheons

Newspaper Conference

Mr Michael Portillo MP, Secretary of State for Defence, was guest of honour and speaker at a Newspaper Conference Lunch held yesterday at the Newspaper Society, Bloomsbury Square, London WC1. Mr John Hipwood, Chairman, presided.

Dinners

HM Government

The Prince of Wales attended a dinner given by HM Government yesterday evening at Apsley House, London W1, in honour of the Sultan of Oman, Qaboos bin Said Al Said. Mr Nicholas Soames MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, and Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, were the hosts.

Children act cases to be heard in private

LAW REPORT

9 July 1996

Re P-B (a minor); Court of Appeal (Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Thorpe) 20 June 1996

Family proceedings involving children should generally be heard in private and, although the judge had a discretion, under rule 4.16(7) of the Family Proceedings Rules 1991, to hear all or part of the case in public, he was not bound by considerations of open justice or freedom of expression to do so.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the father of a five-year-old boy, who may not be identified, against the decision of Judge Goldstein, sitting in Bow County Court on 14 March 1996, that the father's application for a residence order under the Children Act 1989 should not be heard in open court.

The father in person; Janet Plange (Lucas & Ball) for the mother; Harry Turcan (Official Solicitor) as amicus curiae.

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said the father had asked for the whole case, evidence and judgment, to be in open court. The application was supported by an intervenor in the proceedings, and was not objected to by either the mother or the Official Solicitor. The judge nevertheless felt constrained by rule 4.16(7) of the 1991 Rules to decide that the proceedings should all be heard in private. Rule 4.16(7) provided:

Unless the court otherwise directs, a hearing of, or directions appointment in, proceedings to which this Part applies shall be in chambers.

To her Ladyship's mind those words were clear and simple. However, the appellant suggested that the "default position", if no application was made to hear the case in public, was to hear it in chambers, but that the judge ought to exercise his discretion in each case to come to the inevitable conclusion that all cases should be heard in public.

He set out a number of arguments in support of hearing child cases in public, including the right of the public to know what was going on, criticism of secret justice, the dangers of hearing cases in private without the scrutiny of the public and press, and the inability of litigants in person to get experience in conducting child cases or to find out what the judge was like. He suggested they were rotten laws and a rotten use of discretion.

In support of these arguments, he relied on a line of cases which set out the importance of open justice in the courts, in particular *Scott v Scott* [1913] AC 417, and on the views of several members of the judiciary in lectures or articles.

He recognised the long-established practice of excluding the public in wardship cases and sought to distinguish it from all other children cases. He was not, in her Ladyship's view, able to sustain that distinction. The court's paramount duty in wardship, namely care of the ward, was now to be found in section 1 of the Children Act: "the welfare of the child shall be the court's paramount consideration".

The appellant also relied on articles 6 and 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Article 6(1) provided for the public hearing of cases, but with the proviso of exclusion of the press and public from all or part of the trial "where the interests of juveniles . . . so require". The right to freedom of expression contained in article 10 was also subject to conditions. It would seem that present procedures in family cases were in accordance with the Convention.

The long-established practice in the English High Court and county courts when hearing applications for custody or access (now called residence or contact) or wardship had been and remained to hear the whole of the evidence in private. In the High Court, judgment would often be given in public where the court believed there was a public interest in the case or to give guidance to practitioners.

Despite the appellant's arguments, it was abundantly clear that the courts were bound by rule 4.16(7) to bear child cases generally in private. The sub-rule allowed for all or part of the case to be heard in public, but in the light of the long-established practice it was unlikely that judges would, other than rarely, bear the evidence relating to the welfare of a child in public.

The exercise of discretion remained in the hands of the trial judge and it was a matter for the judge in each case to exercise that discretion if called upon to do so.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

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the leader page

British politics requires more thought

Like management consultancy, think-tankery is thing of parts. One part is charlatanry, another is opportunism and a third part is chutzpah. Both the consultants and the think tanks rose to their present eminence in the Eighties. Then, if you needed a cover story for mass sacking, you called a consultant; if you needed a fig leaf for a prime minister's whim, such as the poll tax, you whistled up a think-tank report. This was not all bad. It was the decade that taught the Tories to think, and to respect ideas – including foreign ideas. And the – right-wing think tanks had real political influence. Without their chutzpah and, at times, their charlatanry, the Thatcherite programme would have lacked some of its internal self-confidence and determination.

Today, however, the think tanks of the right are in decline. They are facing leftish think tanks, which don't seem to have the same influence on Tony Blair as the Conservative ones had on Margaret Thatcher. And now, in a strange turnabout, David Willetts, formerly of the Centre for Policy Studies and now a Conservative minister, has published a CPS pamphlet to denounce – of all things – thinkers and think tanks.

He selects eight gurus (including the unguru-like editor of this newspaper) and chastises them for creating a climate of opinion which is un-British and may help Mr Blair's New Labour. Unlike the home-spun wisdom of the Tories, Blair, it seems, is surrounding himself with thinkers influenced by foreigners, including that dreadful Chinaman Confucius. Once he might have sought to explain how an Austrian, Friedrich von Hayek, could both have profoundly influenced the German social market economic model and been hailed by Lady Thatcher. Nor, we seem to recall, was Milton Friedman a yeoman of Sussex.

At any rate, confronted by the proposition that British politicians are being drenched with fresh thinking from home or abroad, we can only say: "We wish." The Institute of Economic Affairs and its aficionados have spun a tale about how Mrs Thatcher was captured by its free-market ideas. It was, in truth, always a little more complicated and duller than they made out. The Thatcherite Tories respected Hayek and Friedman more than they read them. But the evidence of Blair and his colleagues mopping up books of political theory is scant by comparison. There are occasional respectful references to handy bestsellers and the thinkings of American Democratic pundits. Terms such as "stakeholding" have proved useful for a speech or two. Political reform was put on to the party's agenda by the campaigners of Charter 88 and frustrated Labour activists. But the stronger influences on

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Labour's thinking are the current mood of the tabloid and Conservative press, with a nod at the Liberal papers. Labour shows no great relish for ideas. Indeed, we rather fear that Mr Paul Dacre, editor of the *Daily Mail*, is as strong a current influence on the party as any liberal pundit or modish economist. It's certainly the case that Mr Willetts, as an opponent, is paying more respectful intellectual attention to the alleged Blair gurus than Blair does.

That, however, is politics. Authors and think-tank directors would love us to believe that there is an old-fashioned intellectual hegemony which can be spun together and will trap the dominant politicians of the day. But the times when a coherent intellectual movement has swept through a capital have tended to produce bad, sometimes bloody, politics. Leninism was coherent and, up to a point, intellectual. So was the "Republican revolution" in America, which is now lying smashed by the force of its own logic. These days, the left is relatively unintellectual compared to the hard-edged thinkers of the right. The left's ideas are kinder, gentler and vaguer. Even the most kindly disposed friends of the Institute of Public Policy Research would admit that it is low key. Demos, that enfant terrible of recent think tanks, is a great predicter of trends and tendencies. But we need to distinguish ideas that actually make it into policy (which are few) and ideas which shake things up by flipping over the prism of perspective.

The ideas on offer to Labour now are simple and starting points only. "Globalisation" does not get us far, but at least it points to the dependency of workforces, even regions on the ever-faster velocity of capital: insecurity is a real and common feeling. Political reform is not an idea imported from Germany, or anywhere else, but a common-sense reaction to the failings of the British political system over the past 20 years – failings felt by most observers, specialist or not. The centralisation of government is an observable fact. On social policy, there are as many remedies as thinkers, but a new toughness on welfare among some on the left is not intellectual, so much as a reaction to the lives and opinions of Labour constituents. These ideas are in the air and will influence Labour not because some people have written books, but because they correspond to common feelings, repeated in newspapers and MPs' surgeries.

Does this mean that the gurus and their enemies are equally irrelevant? Not at all. Thinkers, never a terribly popular lot in Britain, have a role and responsibility in arming and equipping political leaders to subvert and challenge public opinion, but also to educate and inform it. Whether they congregate in tanks or move like free spirits along the M40, we all need more not less thinking.

Around the world again

Magellan did it through his straits. Francis Drake did it on his *Hind*. Captain James Cook would have done it – had the natives not been so friendly. It was still relatively interesting when Chay Blyth did it single-handedly on a boat commemorating a nationalised industry.

But a quarter of a century later, it has to be said that, however it is done, whether east to west, back to front, in a canoe or a catamaran, circumnavigation of the globe has become a bit of a ritual.

Two-and-a-half cheers only, then, for Samantha Brewster and her feat of lone sailoring. The tang of the salt off Tierra del Fuego, the threat of typhoons in Celebes; nothing can detract from the drama of this odyssey except that repeat mariners know what to expect.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Putting a price on the environment

Sir: John Gummer's "real anger" (Letters, 5 July) at Labour's lack of environmental commitment would be more convincing if he had not been supporting the international effort of some neo-liberal economists to "monetise" nature and amenity.

Their theory is that human lives should be valued according to whether they are lived in rich countries or poor ones, so that the life of a North American or a West European is many tens of times more valuable than that of a Bangladeshi.

The same doctrine seeks to find a money value for individual components of the environment by asking what financial compensation affected individuals might accept for the loss of them.

Both these doctrines are expressions of that monetarist philosophy which has proved incapable of understanding that, in allowing misuse of "the environment", governments are exacting subsidies from today's poor, and from all future generations, for the benefit of today's fat cats. These subsidies are what need sorting out by the world's official economists, including Mr Gummer's, and they can't do it using the vocabulary of "the market".

WAYLAND KENNET
(Lord Kennet)
House of Lords
London SW1

Sir: With an election date looming it is not enough for Frank Dobson to promise those concerned with the low profile of Labour's environment policy that "more will be made available in due course" (letter, 8 July). Labour's draft manifesto says they will "encourage" energy saving, "promote" green business and "recognise" environmental challenges – but it fails to say how it will achieve any of these.

We can all recognise the challenge. Even the Conservative Party shares these aims. However, only the Liberal Democrats are prepared to rise to that challenge with specific policies.

We are the only one of the major political parties to make the commitment that the Climate Action Network UK calls for: a target of reducing CO_2 emissions by 30 per cent over 15 years, and we explain in detail how we would achieve it. We are committed to detailed proposals to shift to environment taxation – taxing pollution but using the funds to cut taxes on jobs and products.

Every politician likes to sound green these days but Liberal Democrats uniquely explain what we will do about it.

MATTHEW TAYLOR MP
(Truro, Lib Dem)
Liberal Democrat Environment Spokesperson
House of Commons
London SW1

Merry July

Sir: This morning (8 July) I received a Christmas card from the president of Help the Aged, together with a catalogue of their cards for purchase. With almost half the year still to go, I wonder, is this a record?

SUE MILLER
Oxford

No way to control the baby

Sir: Speaking as a relative pro (GP and mother of four) I would like to encourage people who don't "stay in control" and use painkillers during birth (reports, 5 July). We strive to be in charge of our partners, our midwives, our doctors and ourselves, but can we really be in control of the baby?

My first was an epidural because I couldn't stand the pain, the next was natural but uncomfortable, the third was a dream birth, and the last was the worst, despite gas and air. This was nothing to do with my attitude or the hospital's, but because presumably the baby was a different shape and the labour took a different path.

If you have a perfect birth, say thanks to the baby, and when it's hard and you need help remember it is the beginning of allowing freedom to your child.

Dr E T MANN
Harrogate, North Yorkshire

Save the whale from myths

Sir: Much of what Roger Scruton (report, 3 July) has to say about animal rights is worthy of consideration. To enlist *Moby Dick*, though, as a vindication of whaling does lead one to wonder whether Professor Scruton has undertaken a serious study of what may well be, as he puts it, the "greatest American novel".

First, Melville "account[s] the whale immortal in his species" – that is, that his "Leviathans", are immune to extinction.

Secondly, to argue along these lines seems to suggest that Melville's priority in *Moby Dick* was to provide an account of the whale fishery of the 19th century, or a natural history of the great "fish" (yes: Melville defends the view that whales are fish). So far as Ahab was "monomaniacal" about the great white whale, and so far as this monomania corrupted his humanity, it might better be stated that *Moby Dick* is a cautionary tale to all persons who objectify things (one great white whale; other animals) and pursue them indifferent to how the pursuit impacts upon both his moral nature and the community of which he is a part.

J ELLIS PERRY IV
Department of Philosophy
University of Aberdeen

Sabotage plan for angry dons

Sir: The media have been absorbed with the rows over salaries for airline pilots and MPs. Could you find a column inch or two to address academics' salaries?

After protracted negotiations university lecturers have been made a final offer of 1.5 per cent. None of us can remember when we last received a pay rise that matched inflation.

I suggest that from next autumn we simply take every application form for a place at a British university and put it through the office shredder, or at least lock it away in a safe place until after the next general election. Schools, applicants and their parents might then at least become aware that there is a problem. Some of those parents might well be senior civil servants and politicians.

It is very important that we do not hurt our present students. I suggest we award all of them first-class degrees next year. The students won't complain, but it might create problems for prospective employers – business, the Civil Service, the media. As none of these bodies care about us, why should we care about them?

Now, it might be that we will be deemed to be breaking the law – so I suggest that all academics be put in boot camps: we will benefit from the physical exercise and the mental relaxation. And who will staff the universities during our absence? Draft in the military! The entertainment value of the ensuing scenes will boost the nation's morale no end.

Dr ROBERT PORTER
Department of Russian Studies
Bristol University

Golden age of consensus

Sir: Fifty years ago was certainly no golden age (leading article 6 July). Britain was bankrupt after a six-year war, but let's try forty years ago, when the post-war cross-party agreement on the welfare state and full employment had something to show.

In 1955 there were only 232,000 unemployed (1.1 per cent) and 192,000 houses were built for local authorities. The average rate of inflation for the previous three years was just under 3 per cent. Personal taxes were high, but there were no beggars on the streets or either teenagers or the mentally unstable sleeping rough.

In England and Wales the number of divorces was only 7 per cent of the number of marriages. The 1955 records show only 30 murders. The streets were safe and there was not enough mugging to be recorded.

Now we have abandoned all that for the "permissive society", where, to quote the Book of Judges, "Everyone did that which was right in their own eyes". The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. There are now nearly ten times as many unemployed. Half the marriages now end in divorce, leaving half today's children with that undeserved trauma.

It is hardly surprising that if we are now told by our intellectual leaders that there is no life after death and certainly no judgement for what we get away with here, that we grab what we can, while we can, however we can and hold on to it hard. Even the Labour Party have abandoned any commitments either to full employment or to expenditure which would raise taxes, however slightly, on the rich to look after the sick, the poor and homeless or to bring our education up to the level of our competitors. The second great commandment of the Christian faith is that we should love our neighbour as ourself. We forget that at our peril.

Sir FRED CATHERWOOD
President, The Evangelical Alliance
London SE11

Power to the judges

Sir: Francesca Klug of Charter 88 (letter, 5 July) contests my statement that a Bill of Rights would necessarily shift power to judges. In doing so, she amply illustrates why I am right.

Opportunities to sue government ministers and public officials have already grown enormously in recent decades, without a Bill of Rights. The mind boggles at the torrent of litigation which would result if judges were also required to weigh government decisions against a vague list of "universal values".

The experience of the New Zealand Bill of Rights model, where the courts cannot overturn legislation, also supports my contention. The New Zealand Bill of Rights was not entrenched due to lack of popular support for such a move. Yet the New Zealand Court of Appeal has already succeeded in making the Bill of Rights into an instrument that goes far beyond what was originally intended by New Zealand's parliament.

Ms Klug argues that international human rights instruments provide a suitable source for a common set of values. The proponents of "objective values" must restrict themselves to a few abstract ideals whose vagueness allows almost any interpretation. By judges. I have no doubt that Messrs Woolf, Slynn and others are very clever chaps but we should not ask them to become philosopher-kings.

RICHARD BACON
London SW1

Options open on windfall tax

Sir: Insinuations in the *Independent* (3, 4 July) that some privatised utilities are "hopeful" of exemption from Labour's proposed windfall tax have no basis whatever.

I have met representatives of British Gas – though the purpose of our meeting was not to discuss the windfall tax – and I have met others, including a representative of National Grid, who have specifically wanted to discuss the windfall tax.

I have spelt out on each occasion that Labour has a clear policy of a windfall levy in the monopolistic profits of privatised utilities. I have also on each occasion confirmed what we have said previously – that the introduction of such a levy would be after consultation in government with the industry regulators and that no commitments have been, or are being made, on the level, method of assessment or scope of the levy.

The utilities are important industries, which we want to see give a good service to consumers and make successful contribution to the economy. It is right that we meet them to discuss matters of mutual concern, and receive their representations. But the application of our policy – strongly supported by the public – will not be deflected by misleading analysis or lobbying pressure.

ANDREW SMITH MP
(Oxford East, Lab)
Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury
House of Commons
London SW1

Love, death and film rights

Sir: The point of Roger Clarke's article "Death in Venice – the Remix" (5 July) was obviously to let his imagination run riot. I feel obliged, however, to point out two particular inaccuracies concerning the film production *Love and Death on Long Island*.

The figure of £5000 bears no relation to the purchase of the film rights from Gilbert Adair. Chance would have been a fine thing.

The Canadian hackers made no intervention in the casting process, and were not made "nervous" by any aspect of it. In my limited experience, a nervous hacker is a non-hacker.

RICHARD KWIETNIOWSKI
London NW1

Just relax

Sir: Bernice Weston's Age Power (report, 4 July) seems hardly more than an attempt to market manic activity as an elixir. When over the hill you do indeed gather speed. You also get a clear view of what is at the bottom. If the over-fifties feel bad about the future it is because they simply regret the human condition, not that there is insufficient to do. I strongly advise them to avoid this fatuous enterprise and recover the innate human aptitude for indolence.

MICHAEL McKEON
Middleton in Teesdale, Co Durham

Slogan war

Sir: If "New Labour, New Danger", why not "Old Tory, Old Story"?

D W NIXON
Albrighton, Shropshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

What is the Jewish state for?

In Israel, **John Lichfield** discovers a nation divided over how to make peace but sharing a collective identity crisis

An ultra-Orthodox Jew under arrest after a protest in Jerusalem: but those with strong religious views are not alone in feeling bewildered at Israel today — Brian Hendler/AP

Part One: West Bank

Six teenage Israeli soldiers, rifles propped across their laps, are sitting in the dust, eating choc ices. Beside them is a rambling, ancient building, which is part mosque, part synagogue. According to the Book of Genesis, Chapter 23, a cave beneath the building is the burial place of Abraham, patriarch of Judaism and also of Islam. Here also rest Abraham's wife Sarah and their son Isaac and his wife Rebecca.

A sleepy menace fills the air. Jews are forbidden by the Israeli army to enter the back of the building, which is a mosque; Muslims are forbidden to enter the front, which is a synagogue. Only "Christians" (short-hand for everyone else) are allowed to visit both. The crumbling streets are deserted save for Israeli paratroopers and groups of children. A gang of Palestinian kids chat to a grinning Israeli soldier; two Jewish kids play on tricycles. The children, who ignore each other, look startlingly similar. They can be told apart only by the small knitted *kipas* which the Jewish youngsters wear. In this place, at this time, it is reasonable to assume that their parents might cheerfully kill each other.

This is Hebron, the third most holy town in the Holy Land, and the only large Palestinian town on the West Bank still under Israeli control. In the next couple of days – maybe as soon as today – Hebron will provide the first real clue to the intentions of the new Israeli government of Bibi Netanyahu.

It was here, at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in December 1994, that a Jewish settler, Baruch Goldstein, murdered 29 Muslim pilgrims at prayer. It was here that Yigal Amir, the man who murdered Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in November last year, spent most of his weekends, praying with a group of 200 biblically inspired Israeli extremists who insist on living in the heart of an otherwise wholly Palestinian town. Why they do is because it was also here that an entire Jewish community was massacred by Arabs in 1929.

Equally, Hebron is regarded as one of the principle strongholds of Hamas, the Islamic movement behind the suicide bombings of Israeli cities in February and March which help to explain – but do not wholly explain – the defeat last month of Mr Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres.

When Mr Netanyahu meets President Clinton in Washington today, Hebron will be at the top of the agenda. Under the terms of the second Oslo agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) was supposed to have "redeployed" in March, remaining only in the town centre to defend the small, aggressive Jewish community there. The transfer was postponed by the Hamas bombings and again by the Israeli elections.

During his campaign, Candidate Netanyahu, prospecting for votes on the religious right, said he might delay the redeployment in Hebron indefinitely. To do so would be a clear signal that he intends to adopt a confrontational approach with the Palestinians (and the US) which would, in effect, bury the peace process.

On the other hand, if he tells President Clinton today that Israeli troops will shortly leave most of Hebron, Netanyahu will be hailed in the West as a pragmatist, prepared to keep the peace process on track to who-knows-where.

Which is it to be? Perhaps neither. The word is that the IDF is already packing up and leaving purely Palestinian areas. However, to cover his domestic right flank, Netanyahu is expected to strengthen (at least cosmetically) the IDF grip on the town centre. The West – even the Palestinian leadership – may accept this fudge with relief. But local Palestinian leaders forecast trouble.

> The mind reels with an overload of conflicting certainties

Hebron encapsulates not only the convoluted and bloody history of this part of the Middle East but also its muddied and hazardous, immediate future. Dozens of conversations in the past eight days across Israel, Golan and the West Bank with politicians, officials, soldiers and citizens leave the mind reeling with an overload of categorical (and mutually conflicting) certainties.

But here is a working hypothesis: there will be no frontal assault on the peace process by Binyamin "Bibi" Netanyahu. He will try to muddle his way for at least a year without a clear idea of what he is muddling towards. It is a commonplace among Israelis – even those who voted for him – to complain: "Who is Bibi Netanyahu? No-one knows." In this, if in nothing else, Mr Netanyahu is a man perfectly matched to the moment. Israel is going through an identity crisis, more wrenching than any in its brief history.

Part Two: Jerusalem, Golan and Tel Aviv

Any course in "the Middle East for beginners" should include 10 minutes among the tribes of modern Israel at the Jerusalem central bus station. A young woman sells pirated rock 'n' roll CDs; two ultra-Orthodox young men in dark suits and broad-brimmed black hats shove each other for a seat on the bus; a black (Ethiopian) Israeli serves kosher sandwiches to an impatient queue wearing a selection of black hats and baseball caps.

Last month's election, the most important in Israeli history, was shaped as much by questions Israelis asked of and about themselves: Who are we? Why are we here? Do we want to become a "normal" Western state? Or do we want to create something uniquely Jewish? What are Jewish values?

To this should be added a related question, which Israelis tend not to ask: Would a renewed emphasis on Jewishness – something promised by Mr Netanyahu – make peace with the Arabs easier or harder?

Ilit Eitam is a farmer on the Golan heights, mother of seven, and wife of a general. "What does it mean to be a Jew in a Jewish state," she asks, "if you end up living in a little America? Why do we take all this heavy stuff on ourselves? [She waves towards the bookshelves full of Hebrew texts] when our children say they want to be American. Eighty per cent of young people in Israel don't know the ten commandments. That's the problem we have. We have to make the life of our children meaningful. In the Jewish way. Jewish values. A Jewish life."

The battles within Israeli society are sometimes presented as a struggle between secular liberals and religious conservatives. Such a struggle does exist and sometimes turns violent. In Jerusalem last weekend 3,000 black-hatted Hasidic Jews hurled stones and insults at police in an attempt to close a major city thoroughfare that they insist should be closed on Shabat (the sabbath). But strongly religious Jews are not the only ones to survey Israel today and to feel a sense of bewilderment.

A very senior Labour figure, speaking off the record, said his party – although well-known to be a bastion of secular Israel – lost the election partly because it trampled unnecessarily on the sensitivities of such people (Israel's silent majority). "We came over for the first time as anti-religious, rather than secular but tolerant."

> 'Who are we? Why are we here? What are Jewish values?'

The fundamental argument – sometimes raging within individual Israelis – is between Israel as a chosen country and Israel as a normal country. With prosperity surging in the quasi-peace of the past three years, "normality" is tempting to many non- or semi-religious Israelis but also alarming.

Many, but not all, religious Jews take a hard line in the Palestinian debate (which is also in a sense about normalising Israel's relations with its enemy-neighbours). Many, but not all, secular-leaning Israelis are inclined to take a risk on peace.

Part Three: Jericho, Tel Aviv, Hebron

In the Jordan Valley, between Jericho and the Dead Sea, there is a little barbed wire compound flying two flags: the blue and white of Israel and the red, green, white and black flag of Palestine. In the blinding heat (somewhere in the mid 90s Fahrenheit), a little ceremony is being enacted: Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police are about to set out on a joint patrol through Jericho. Israeli soldiers live on one side of the base; Palestinian "police" (many of them former PLO "freedom fighters" from Iraq or Tunisia) on the other. Between the two a barbed-wire fence provides a neat emblem of the ambiguous condition of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Captain Fuad Rajih, a Palestinian officer is asked whether it is humiliating to serve alongside his former enemies. He replies cryptically, quoting Shimon Peres: "Peace is made between enemies, not between friends."

Just before we leave, another Palestinian officer discovers that our Arabic-speaking travelling companion was born in Baghdad. He asks him, when no one else is listening, what he thinks of the situation there. Our companion, mischievously and untruthfully, says that he is a strong supporter of Saddam. The officer, who had been backslapping with the Israelis two minutes before, beams and says: "God bless you sir."

Such talk is commonplace between Palestinians in private, including, it is said, Yasser Arafat. If you believe the peace process is a sham, or doomed to fail, here is your proof. But many senior pro-peace Israeli politicians and officials insist that it proves nothing.

Ehud Baraq is a former head of the Israeli armed forces, and the man most likely to succeed Shimon Peres next year as leader of the Labour party. Speaking in his temporary office in Tel Aviv, he says he has no doubt that Arafat and some of those around him still nurse hopes of dismantling the Jewish state. "This is the dream, but so what? He has a right to dream. It will lead him nowhere."

The reality, says Mr Baraq (one of the most hard-beaked Labour hawks) is that Arafat recognises that he must deal with Israel to preserve his own power and influence from the Islamist challenge of Hamas.

The only way to "alter the dynamics" of the Middle East, he says, is for Israel to take a "calculated risk" to satisfy legitimate Palestinian demands and hope that Palestinian, and other Arab, attitudes are changed by economic and social benefits of the peace.

Israel, he says, can afford to take a risk. "We are too strong, militarily and economically, to be removed from the Middle East and the Arabs now know that. Some people in Likud will not accept that. They have a shtetel [ghetto] state of mind which must feel itself constantly threatened by enemies all around.

"Netanyahu has a dilemma: whether to go ahead with his election slogans and the traditional postures of Likud and inevitably break his head on the political realities of the Middle East or to pull into the centre and go along with the broad lines of our policies. I am fully confident, knowing the personality, that he will go the second way."

But, as Ehud Baraq says, Netanyahu has in effect handed Hamas a veto over the peace process. Even if he does keep the show on the road, it is entirely unclear where he is prepared to go in the talks on the "final status" of the Palestinian state-in-embryo.

Yoissi Alpher, a former Mossad (Israeli intelligence) executive, who was involved in the private negotiations that led eventually to the Oslo agreement, puts it this way: "In a worst-case scenario, the process could fall apart on any number of short-term problems or a resurgence of Hamas terror. In a best-case scenario, we are looking one year from now at a major crisis in the final status negotiations".

Then what? Of the many election promises Netanyahu made, there is maybe only one really dear to his heart: his promise to bring Reagan-Thatcherism to Israel and create a new economic golden age. The existing boom in foreign investment in Israel depends entirely on peace; a collapse in the negotiations with the Palestinians could turn Bibi's golden age to lead.

There are some politicians and commentators who believe that, rather than allow this to happen, Netanyahu will ditch some of the religious and rightist parts of his coalition, and seek a grand coalition with Labour. But to do so would bring him head-on into collision with that other great explosive question of Israeli politics: what is the Jewish state for? Peace and prosperity might be adequate answers in almost any other country. Not in Israel.

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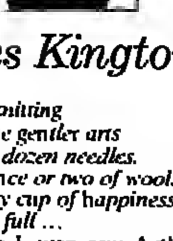

Miles Kington

So anyway, I just happened to write the other day that Arthur Askey's catch-phrase was "Give him the money, Barney!" and the letters rolled in from all round the globe to point out that I had got it all wrong. It wasn't Arthur Askey at all, it was Wilfred Pickles, on his radio programme *Have a Go!*

Some of you were openly contemptuous of my mistake, some of you were quite kind and understanding, pretending that I really knew the truth all along. And for those of you who haven't the faintest what this is all about, a letter from a correspondent called Hilary Mackenzie will fill you in.

She says: "The catch-phrase came from Wilfred Pickles who hosted a rather dreadful cross between a quiz and a chatshow in the Forties. It was called *Have a Go!* and that in itself was a popular catch-phrase. The programme bristled with them – eg 'What's on the table, Mabel?' referring to the glittering prizes available like a pair of fur gloves or 30 bob, and also the stunning question, 'Have you ever had an embarrassing moment?' (this invariably to shy young women whose knicker elastic had failed them at solemn moments).

"My grandmother adored this stuff; my parents dismissed it as 'corny' (another dated word). As a child, I saw it as yet another example of the daftness of grown-ups. But I've remember all the catch-phrases! Isn't it maddening?"

Yes. And the silly thing is that I knew perfectly well that it was Wilfred Pickles who said "Give her the money, Barney!", and that Arthur Askey was someone quite different, someone whose catch-phrases were "Hello playmates!" and "I thang yeow!".

He was also someone who made 78 rpm records of songs like "The Worm", "The Bee" and "The Knitting Song", which my father had bought and got tired of, and which I thought were hilarious. Even these many years later I can remember whole chunks of these ditties, such as the opening of the "Knitting Song":

Some like football
Some like darts
I like knitting
And the gentler arts
Half a dozen needles.
An ounce or two of wool.
Fills my cup of happiness –
Chock full ...

I think I even saw Arthur Askey on stage once, when I was a lad in the Fifties, and we always went to the local pantomime in Liverpool, which brings me miraculously to the next point on which I have been copiously corrected by readers. I said recently I had come across the word "jigger" in a Billy Bunter book, being used to mean "a bicycle" and I took the chance at the time of supplying an exhaustive list of other meanings of "jigger".

But to Liverpudlian readers it was not exhaustive. Quite a handful have written to me to say that there was a peculiarly Scouse meaning of the word, referring to the lane running between back gardens of terraced houses.

Janet Laming, now of Cambridge, says: "When I was a child in Liverpool in the Forties and Fifties, streets of terraced houses often had a parallel alley at the bottom of the backyards or gardens, giving pedestrian access to the house. I sometimes heard it said of a bandy-legged man that 'he couldn't stop a pig in a jigger'. I never met a pig in a jigger, but the idea caught my imagination enough to have stayed with me."

A wonderful expression, and I shall try to adopt it. However, I was really hoping that someone would come up with other slang expressions for a bicycle except for "jigger", as it seems odd that we have no demotic word for a bike apart from "bike". The only letter on the subject has come from Mr Paul Dillingham in far off Finland, who says that he was taught at Winchester in the Fifties that "bogle" was a colloquial word for bicycle.

I have never heard of this. I do know, however, that in Scotland the word "bogle" means a ghost. Does this add anything to the richness of the debate? The answer, of course, is that it does not.

And that concludes this round-up of recent readers' points – except to say that I am impressed by a fax from Glasgow, bearing Gerry Dunne's nominations for a competition I mentioned for the Most Annoying Remarks in Daily Life:

"Not to put too fine a point on it",

"Not so as you'd notice",

"A word's as good as a nod to a blind man",

"What's your problem, then?",

"Cat got your tongue?",

"As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted ...",

"Can I just run this by you?",

"How long is a piece of string?"

To which I would just add, "I hear what you're saying" and "There you go then".

Marching the ancient Orange road to nowhere

Ulster's traditions are the problem not the solution, says Eamonn McCann

When the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, David Trimble, offered the opinion yesterday that the Orange Order is no more sectarian in its outlook and social role than other Protestant organisations such as the Guides, my mind was suddenly suffused with a disturbingly congenial image of shiny-faced little girls in berets and ankle socks storming up Rossville Street waving light cudgels and squeaking at the top of tiny voices, "Kill the Fenian bastards!"

This was the slogan shouted, more gruffly, by ominous members of the Orange Order and the Apprentice Boys as they erupted into the Bogside on 12 August 1969 with a view to putting manners on uppity "Fenians" who had dared to oppose the annual "Boys" parade along the edge of the overwhelmingly Catholic areas in Derry.

In truth, while there was scarcely anyone in the Bogside who wasn't thoroughly opposed to the Apprentice Boys' march, only a minority had gone down to the bottom of Rossville Street to proclaim their hostility. But the incursion into the area of a force of men with sashes around their necks and mayhem on their minds changed that in a twinkling.

The Bogside erupted. Two days and nights of fighting followed. Efforts by the RUC to reimpose order on the area ended with members of the force literally falling down from exhaustion. On the afternoon of 14 August, men of the Prince of Wales Own Regiment, ordered in by the Home Secretary, James Callaghan, threw a barricade of barbed wire across the main exit/entrance between the Bogside and the city centre.

Thus did an Orange march trigger the events that led to Unionism's loss of local control over law and order.

Unionist leaders have been striving without success to regain this ground ever since. They are determined at least not to have to give away any more.

David Trimble sports the colours Photograph: PA

Their problem is that the ground has changed, not just in terms of sectarian demography – the Garvaghy Road in Portsdown (where David Trimble's massed forces demand to march) was "mixed" in 1969 but is now overwhelmingly Catholic – but also in terms of political balance and context.

The relative numerical growth in the Catholic population, the more remarkable growth in the size and self-confidence of the Catholic middle class, the economic shifts that have made southern Ireland a junior partner rather than a poor neighbour of Britain in Europe, the impoverishment of sections of the Protestant working class that could once look to the Orange lodge for marginal advantage over Catholics, the internationalisation of the northern conflict generally, all this had made the chances of the "Orange State" being reconstituted so remote as scarcely to be worth thinking about.

Except that there is little in the philosophy of Orangeism for its leaders to think about. David Trimble and Ian Paisley are, of course, right when they say that their marches – all 2,500-plus of them annually – are "traditional". The marches have been the main means whereby Unionist leaders have symbolised and celebrated the second-class-citizenship not just of Catholics but of all who have dissented from the notion of "Protestant Ulster".

The Orange Order is not just a Protestant organisation. It is certainly not – despite the presumably well-meaning promotional efforts of the "cultural traditions" lobby – a harmless expression of "Protestant communal culture".

It is not Protestant but specifically and explicitly anti-Catholic.

Catholics cannot join, of course. A member who marries a Catholic or attends a Catholic religious service is liable to expulsion. In 1959, Phelim O'Neill, a Unionist MP, was expelled for attending a Catholic mass in his constituency.

The function of the Order, and the significance of its penchant for parading, was well expressed by its own historian, the Rev John Brown, in the Sixties: "On 12 July and other occasions the Orangeman marched with his lodge behind its flags and drums ... to show his strength in the places where he thought it would do most good. Where you could 'walk' you were dominant and the other things followed."

The tradition that the Orange marches represents is akin, then, to the tradition that persisted until the late Sixties in the southern states of the US that black people should ride at the back of the bus, or the tradition still "honoured" in parts of the world today that husbands have a right to beat wives. It's all about walking over others.

In this perspective, the authenticity of the Orange tradition, far from providing a defence of the practices associated with it, rather testifies to the deep-rootedness of a social evil.

This is by no means a new insight. As far back as 1857, two barristers appointed by the Lord Lieutenant to investigate a horrendous outbreak of sectarian violence in Belfast on the previous 12 July, reported:

"The Orange system seems to us to have no other practical result than as a means of keeping up the Orange festivals, and celebrating them, leading as they do to violence, outrage, religious animosities, hatred between classes (sic) and, too often, bloodshed and loss of life ... We think it is well to consider whether there is any controlling necessity to keep it alive, notwithstanding the evils that, unfortunately, attend its existence."

Noting that it was "the lower orders" which seemed to do most of the fighting, suffering and even dying, they commented: "With them the war is a real one, personal suffering attends it with them, they are maimed in limb and rendered homeless by it. On them falls the misery of what brings advancement to the more exalted."

Not that, despite their best, or worst, efforts, there is real prospect of advancement for the leaders of Orangeism today. Or that any of them might properly be described as exalted.

Eamonn McCann is a journalist living in the Bogside district of Derry.

A man who would face both ways

Stephen Dorrell's dreams of leadership are apparent in his careful musings. But is he just all talk, asks Nicholas Timmins

Stephen Dorrell has yet to become one of the cartoonists' favourites. If he ever does, it will doubtless be the bags under his eyes on which they will focus. Right now, he has every right to have them.

He has just completed his first year as Secretary of State for Health. But in that time, aside from running one of the more demanding departments of state, Mr Dorrell has been working hard at his second job – positioning himself for the Tory Party leadership battle to come if the Conservatives go down at the general election.

There have been some remarkable speeches. The man once seen as Peter Walker's heir and so wringing wet that even Julian Critchley once described him as "excessively moderate" has been sounding increasingly Euro-sceptic and a harder man on social policy than many had believed him to be. Education and health, he has said, should remain universal services. But the rest of the welfare state he has airily dismissed as "primarily designed to offer a safety net to those who are unable to provide for themselves." In the cause of this careful positioning, he has even attempted to reclaim Margaret Thatcher as a One Nation Tory.

He cannot be serious. How can he see Margaret Thatcher as a One Nation Tory on the NHS when it is on record that she didn't believe in it as a universalist service? Marvellous for the "great accidents" and "terrible diseases" – as she herself once put it – and necessary for the poor. But, according to Kenneth Clarke, her health secretary at the time, she believed for the rest that people "should take responsibility for their own lives and insure for these things".

Dorrell equivocates. "That may or may not be right," he says. The point is that that is not what happened. As Secretary of State for Education, Mrs Thatcher delivered a universalist education service. And as prime minister, she continued to provide a universalist NHS. "What you have to judge people by," Dorrell avers, "is not the ideas they muse over but the conclusions they come to in ordered decision-making." This is an important sentence.

His own musings, these days, sound a fair way from what is usually seen as traditional One-Nation Toryism. To the right of Kenneth Clarke, for example, who has said the basic pension is a key part of the welfare state and that the de-layered and downsized managers of Middle England want not just good health and education but a modernised welfare system that will help them retrain and find new employment. If Dorrell is saying all the rest of the welfare state is merely a safety net, surely that implies reducing the remainder to means tests? He unhesitatingly agrees. "That's not the implication," he says, "it's the assertion."

So he would means-test the basic state pension and child benefit? Caution enters here. The growth of private pensions means relatively few households rely only on the basic state pension. In that sense, therefore, it already is a safety net, although "we continue with the existing retirement pensions commitment".

What about child benefit? Would he favour means-testing it? He doesn't answer the question. Instead, he carefully repeats that the existing commitment "continues to be the commitment we are delivering".

So how about spending? It should come down, Dorrell says. But he won't indulge in the targets which the right has been bandying about. "I do think we can get it down," he says, "but I've never believed that setting a target as a new nirvana makes sense." Indeed, he argues: "It may be that the time will come when we conclude we have cut it far enough. But it doesn't seem to me that is in prospect yet."

The difference between musings and actions seems to come in here. Dorrell may be positioning himself better with the right in order to be a possible standard-bearer for the left – perhaps a 45-year-old Dorrell against a 44-year-old Portillo if John Major loses next May.

To be a contender, Dorrell needs another good year, plus the public profile he has so far lacked but is beginning to acquire – both on his own account and at John Major's instigation. He is steadily becoming a Cabinet front man on issues well outside his departmental brief: last week, for example, on the constitution. On television, his open, reasoned, intellectual logic provides a friendlier Tory face to offset Brian Mawhinney's Rottweiler tendencies.

At National Heritage, his first Cabinet post, he did not shine, never quite recovering from appearing miffed, initially, at not getting something more heavyweight. At health, he's become more of a star.

He has defused some of the heat around the NHS reforms by becoming a "a bureau-sceptic" – cutting away at the management costs the reforms have created. He has neatly finessed a potentially damaging confrontation with GPs into what may just become a constructive dialogue. The distinct flush of manager and civil servant in him – traits unusual in politicians – have focussed on a few critical NHS issues: emergency cover, intensive-care beds and mental health.

Dorrell, who will not ask for more funding for the floundering NHS because it would reflect badly on him and his party Photograph: Edward Sykes

There have been blips. Redrawing the sensible drinking guidelines into what critics dubbed "a boozer's charter" was not the cleverest thing to do in the middle of the Government's anti-drink-driving campaign at Christmas. And there has been BSE. But predictions at the time that mad cow disease would make or break him have proved wide of the mark. It is Douglas Hogg, not Dorrell, who has been wounded by that flak.

The big outstanding question is whether in last year's spending round he won enough money for the NHS in this pre-election year. It is, he accepts, not only tight, but "tighter than usual". But new services are still being developed and he doesn't anticipate a major expansion in waiting times. No, he says, he hasn't thought of going back for more money – and he doesn't intend to.

"I don't believe that way of managing anything makes sense. Of course it is true in every organisation in every walk of life at any time in history that if you had a bit more you could do a bit more. But the job of those charged with managing something for a given period is to use the resources at their disposal to deliver the best service they can."

It would reflect badly on the NHS, he says, if it had to go back for more cash. And badly on him? "Yes. It would mean we have made a mistake, and I don't believe that is true." And on that judgement, as much as any other, may ride Dorrell's chances of entering the frame.

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An election Tony Blair would best avoid

The leader, the party, and the country at large can only lose if a vote is held for the Shadow Cabinet

DONALD MACINTYRE

Consider this unconsciously revealing remark by Doug Hoyle, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, on the *Today* programme yesterday. Asked by James Naughtie whether the prospect of the Labour Party consuming itself over the summer and early autumn in the divisive internal politicking of a Shadow Cabinet election would not delight the Tory chairman Brian Mawhinney, Mr Hoyle replied, after various platitudes about getting Dr Mawhinney out of office: "I'm afraid we don't run the Labour Party for Dr Mawhinney *or anyone else*."

OK. It was a slip. No doubt he didn't really intend to say it. Or if he *did*, he meant "or anyone else in the Conservative Party". And yet in those three little words all the introverted and residual tribalism which 16 years of opposition have still failed quite to extinguish is laid bare. Whether or not the Parliamentary Labour Party breaks its hallowed traditions by not having annual elections this year, Mr Hoyle appears to be saying, is no one's business but its own. Perhaps not Tony Blair's and certainly not, even under a system which Mr Hoyle was adamant would decide who is and who isn't in the first Labour Cabinet for 17 years, yours or mine.

It is our concern, of course, and we'll come to why in a moment. But even if it wasn't, it's easy to make a case, in the Labour Party's own interests, of why it would be crazy to consume many weeks in the run-up to a general election in a prolonged internal campaign for who should be in the Shadow Cabinet.

Many of those insistent on securing elections are motivated as much by the desire to punish as to bring on to the Shadow Cabinet a new and favoured candidate. But however sweet the vengeance in booting Harriet Harman (for sending her son to a grammar school) or Jack Straw (for trying to outflank Michael Howard on law and order) off the Shadow Cabinet, it doesn't require much imagination to see what the Tories will do with such results.

So much for Tony Blair's modernisation, they will say that November day when the Shadow Cabinet results come out: "Today we've seen the real Labour Party at work."

The second and more powerful argument is that it's a rotten system, owing a good deal more to vote-trading and arcane regional and personal alliances than merit or even ideology. At least one innocent candidate in last year's Shadow Cabinet elections was astonished to be told by another that he could give him the votes of half a dozen of his own supporters if he could have six back in return. The Labour MP Tony Wright yesterday used the analogy of an England football team picked by all the clubs in the league. "That's exactly what happens here – the equivalent of saying 'you have my goalkeeper, we'll take your centre forward'." Whatever else may be going for the system, it has, apart from its capacity to elect the obvious stars, an almost built-in bias against picking the best man or woman for the job.

But essentially that's Labour's problem, and here Mr Hoyle has half a point. What should concern the rest of us is the much larger issue of whether the Shadow Cabinet, elected on this ramshackle basis, should automatically become the Cabinet on day one of a new Labour government. Standing Order E (1) of the PLP says that "on taking office as Prime Minister the Leader shall appoint as members of his Cabinet those who were elected members of the Parliamentary Committee [ie the Shadow Cabinet] at the dissolution and retained their seats in the new Parliament."

The standard view among MPs is that this means Blair is saddled with the Shadow Cabinet if and when he takes office but can then reshuffle them within a few weeks if he chooses. On Day One, therefore, of the first Labour government for 17 years, the newspapers swell with glowing profiles of the new regime. Then a month later Blair considers whether to risk causing an earthquake in the new government by sacking (say) Michael Meacher, Tom Clarke and goodness knows how many others. This is scarcely sensible politics.

And it matters to a much wider electorate than the Parliamentary Labour Party. Prime ministers, elected by their party and their country, are entrusted by the voters with the right to pick their own team. It's not an exaggeration to say it's part of the unwritten constitution of the country.

What's more, Blair will have Labour Party history on his side if he decides to choose his own Cabinet from Day One. When Harold Wilson arrived at Downing Street in 1964, he grumbled about having to give "priority" – by convention rather than by rule – to his Shadow Cabinet. But there were only 12 of them. Half the entire Cabinet therefore were his own choice. Even when the new rule was introduced in 1981, at the height of the Bennite party reforms, it was assumed that a new Labour prime minister would be able to appoint half his own cabinet. It's only since then that the Shadow Cabinet has grown as large as, and even larger than, the real one.

Ideally, Blair would seek a majority in the Parliamentary Labour Party for cancellation of this year's Shadow Cabinet elections, and with it the 1981 rule requiring him to appoint the entire Shadow Cabinet to his first real Cabinet. But if he can't do the latter now, he has every reason to ignore the rule or demand that it is changed immediately he arrives in office.

Tony Blair hasn't declared his hand on whether there should be Shadow Cabinet elections this year, let alone on the taboo topic of Standing Order E (1). But the most pressing reason for not having the Shadow Cabinet elections is that they probably will be, and certainly ought to be, irrelevant.

business

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CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

UK's national debt doubles under Major

£360bn of borrowings raises the danger of Maastricht Treaty rules on single currency being breached

DIANE COYLE, SARAH HELM and JOHN RENTOUL

The national debt has nearly doubled to £360bn since John Major became Prime Minster in November 1990, putting Britain in danger of breaching the Maastricht Treaty limits that it must meet next year to keep open the option of joining the single European currency.

The Treasury's latest economic forecast, which will be published today, will show that because of higher-than-expected public sector borrowing Britain will struggle to meet the requirements on government borrowings and debt.

A shortfall in tax revenues has jeopardised repeated Government claims that it has done better than other European countries in getting borrowing on a downward path.

The Treasury will confirm that government borrowing will overshoot its targets this year by several billion pounds. And the PSBR target for1997/98 is expected to be revised up by £5bn to around £20bn, which corresponds to a deficit only slightly below the 3 per cent of GDP limit set by the Maastricht Treaty.

This would be more optimistic than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which recently predicted a government borrowing shortfall equivalent to 3.5 per cent of GDP.

Along with this year's revised PSBR target of £27bn, this will take the national debt to over £360bn, twice the end-1990 level. The ratio of debt to GDP will rise above the current 54 per cent ratio, against the 60 per cent Maastricht ceiling.

The surge in government borrowing in the run-up to the 1992 election, compounded by the recession, account for the soaring National Debt. The level of debt fell to a trough of £183bn at the end of 1990, having declined since 1988. The shortfall between government spending and revenues amounted to £187bn between 1991 and 1995.

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday attempted to dampen down hopes of pre-election tax cuts, saying they should be made only if public borrowing was firmly under control.

Mr Clarke said in Brussels: "The overwhelming – the vast majority – of Conservative backbenchers only want tax cuts if they are consistent with control of public spending."

Speaking after a meeting of European finance ministers, he refuted suggestions his freedom to cut taxes was being limited by Brussels, which is pressing Britain to maintain tighter control of borrowing in the run-up to the single currency.

The EU finance ministers yesterday received a report from their monetary committee warning Britain to avoid tax cuts if it wanted to keep open the option of joining monetary union, which means observing the strict Maastricht Treaty rules.'

Mr Clarke took the committee's advice in his stride, saying: "Its recommendations are entirely in line with our policy. It is not telling me anything I do not know already or that I do not already advocate."

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, yesterday called for the Treasury's "wise persons" to carry out an independent assessment of the "black hole" in the Government's finances.

Speaking ahead of today's revised economic forecast from Mr Clarke, Mr Brown said: "The Government has been looking at this for two years. It is now time they came up with an answer."

Seizing on Mr Clarke's admission at the weekend that "my hoffins got their estimates wrong", he said that in total, public borrowing had been £44bn higher than was forecast in the pre-election Budget. This meant interest rates were higher than they would otherwise be, he said.

Treasury officials recently admitted they were "baffled" by the £7bn shortfall in tax revenues last year, about half of which was accounted for by an unexpected undershoot in VAT revenues. Corporation tax was also £2bn lower than forecast, which Mr Brown said strengthened his argument for a windfall levy on the privatised utilities.

Stagnant manufacturing bodes well for prices

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The path to a further cut in interest rates was cleared yesterday by figures showing that manufacturing output was flat in May, while both the cost of materials and prices charged at the factory gate declined last month.

The latest evidence of the stagnation in manufacturing came on the eve of publication of the Treasury's summer forecast, which will make it clear that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's leeway for tax cuts in the next Budget will be tiny. Many City economists believe the Chancellor will exploit the window of opportunity to reduce the cost of borrowing.

"He has the luck of the devil with the figures," said David Hillier, an economist at BZW, predicting a further reduction in base rates when Mr Clarke meets the Governor of the Bank of England at the end of this month.

The 1.3 per cent June drop in the cost of materials was the biggest since September 1993. The year-on-year decline of 4.8 per cent in "core" costs – excluding food, drink, tobacco and petroleum – was the lowest figure since the mid-1980s.

Prices that manufacturers charged at the factory gate fell in June for the second month running, declining 0.2 per cent compared with May. "Core" output price inflation fell to 2 per cent, returning to the mid-1994 trough and the lowest since the 1960s.

"These are some of the lowest rates of producer price inflation in a decade, with no evidence of input price pressures," a Treasury spokesman said.

Yet manufacturing output was flat in May despite price discounting. Although 0.3 per cent higher in the three months to May compared with the previous three, it remained at the same level as a year earlier.

Food and drink, textiles and engineering output all advanced during the latest three months.

A surge in energy use due to the cold weather took total industrial output 1.4 per cent higher than a year earlier. Total output has risen fl.5 per cent in the latest three months.

Pessimists think industry will spend the rest of the year clearing the overhang of unsold stocks on the warehouse shelves. "Manufacturing output might well fall for the remainder of this year," said Adam Cole at brokers James Capel.

That bodes well for the outlook for prices. The combination of falling materials costs and weak demand is expected to keep factory gate inflation low.

"This should act as a powerful force to ensure that the Government's inflation target is achieved during the first half of 1997," predicted David Walton at Goldman Sachs.

Yorkshire sold as cable consolidates

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

The long-awaited consolidation of the cable industry began in earnest yesterday, with the news that General Cable was poised to acquire the 50 per cent of Yorkshire Cable Group it did not already own, in an all-share deal worth £160m.

The move is the first sign of large-scale consolidation since last year's merger of Telewest and SBC Cablecomms, which had been expected to launch a rapid consolidation in the cable market.

The seller, Singapore Telecom, said yesterday it was acting on its stated strategy of shifting focus from the UK to the fast-moving Asian cable markets, particularly China.

General Cable, which owns large stakes in three regional cable operators, said it was the "right deal at the right time".

Philippe Galteau, chief executive, said the company would look at other acquisition targets, "provided they enhanced shareholder value".

Analysts said yesterday that the current 15 operators were likely to be reduced to just six by the end of next year.

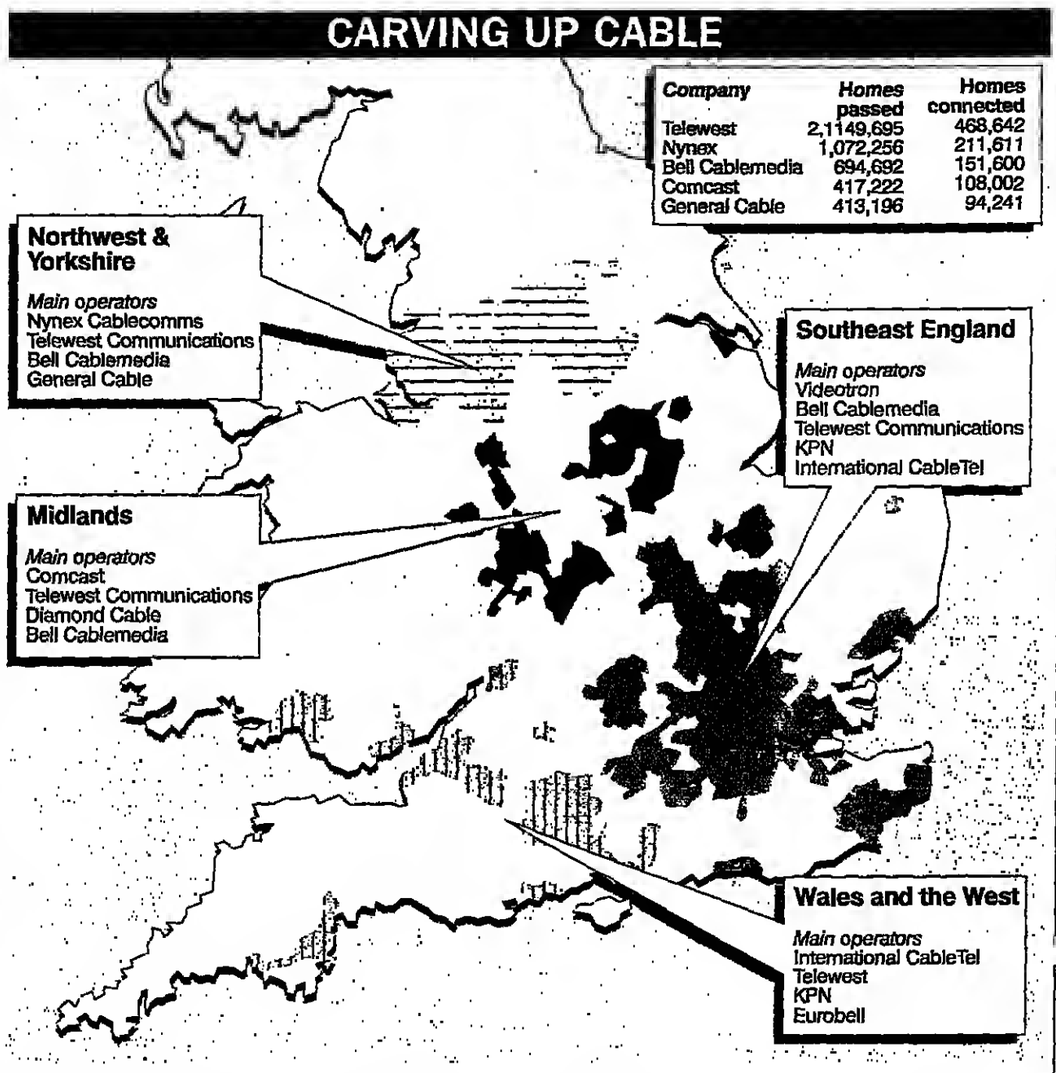
The next high-profile change in ownership is expected within a few weeks, when Videotron, the Canadian cable giant, is likely to announce the sale of its 56 per cent interest in Videotron Holdings, the UK cable operator, probably to minority partner Bell Cablemedia.

The purchase of the 50 per cent stake in Yorkshire Cable by General Cable will be financed through the issue of 84.5 million shares, to raise £45m. Of these, 75 million will be made available in an international issue, aimed at raising cash for the group and to repay all or part of a loan made by Singapore Cable to Yorkshire.

Mr Galteau said the move was not necessarily aimed at creating a larger company. "For us, the criterion is not just getting bigger. The cable industry should concentrate on being local, and being quicker and more responsive."

But other cable operators are convinced that size is an advantage. In addition to the administrative and marketing cost savings, they point to the leverage bigger companies have in lining up programming for their cable TV networks.

Both Telewest and Nynex, the country's largest operators, have secured long-term contracts with BSkyB.



Airbus agrees key shake-up

MICHAEL HARRISON

Airbus Industrie, the four-nation European aircraft manufacturer, yesterday agreed to the most fundamental restructuring in its 26-year history by announcing that it is to become a single corporate entity by 1999.

The decision means that it will abandon its status as a Groupement d'Interet Economique, whereby the four companies in the consortium act as work-sharing partners, and move instead to full commercial status with Airbus operating as a public limited company with its own assets and equity.

The eventual aim is a global flotation so that Airbus can raise finance on the capital markets for new projects such as the proposed 600-seater super-Jumbo, which would cost at least $9bn to develop.

After a meeting of the Airbus supervisory board in Paris yesterday, the four partners – British Aerospace, Aerospatiale of France, Daimler Benz of Germany and CASA of Spain – said they would start negotiations immediately with the aim of reaching a binding agreement on the change of status by the end of this year.

There remain, however, huge obstacles to overcome, not least the assets each of the four partners put into the new Airbus and how they are valued. BAe has a 20 per cent stake compared to 38 per cent for the German and French partners and 4 per cent for the Spanish.

BAe will argue that because the assets it is contributing are more profitable than those of either the French or the Germans, it should receive some financial compensation. BAe could be due as much as £500m from the three other partners.

Negotiations on the equity split are likely to dominate the next six months. The end of this year deadline set by Airbus for agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding may prove hopelessly optimistic.

Airbus has been pondering an overhaul of its structure – widely regarded as cumbersome and inefficient – for the best part of a decade but has always been held back by political friction and the differing philosophies of the four sponsor governments.

The consortium was set up in 1970 effectively as a marketing organisation with workshares divided up according to the stakes each partner holds. Converting to a plc would allow Airbus to contract out to the most competitive bidder.

Investors targeted in fraud boom

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

The pick up in the economy is leading to a boom in frauds against small private investors, the Serious Fraud Office warned yesterday.

The SFO has seen the number of large-scale investment frauds under investigation rise by more than 40 per cent, from 14 to 20 over the last year.

George Staple, the SFO director, warned investors to be on their guard, to check who they are dealing with and to take independent advice before parting with their money.

Including other smaller cases that now go to the SFO instead of the Crown Prosecution Service as a result of a change of Government policy, the total of investment frauds in the SFO workload is now 29. Tougher City regulation is also driving the alleged fraudsters into unregulated areas, such as ostrich farming, where the absence of a financial watchdog makes it easier for them to operate.

Mr Staple said: "As the economy strengthens, there is more money available for investment schemes, some of which are going to be fraudulent."

The SFO's annual report also reveals that Mr Staple has not dropped inquiries into the Barings affair, despite his refusal to press for the extradition of Nick Leeson while he was in Germany.

The report says: "We are carefully considering whether grounds exist for further criminal inquiries into other aspects of the case in England."

The SFO is believed to be keeping a close eye on the inquiry into Barings by the Commons Treasury Select Committee, where one witness, Ron Baker, used parliamentary privilege to make public accusations of a cover-up by named former colleagues. It is also on the alert for any new evidence from Singapore. The watching brief is not thought to be aimed at prosecuting Mr Leeson when he returns from his six-year prison sentence.

Mr Staple's report also makes clear that he has not dropped another high-profile case, that against Asil Nadir, the former Polly Peck head who is now in northern Cyprus. "A warrant has been issued for his arrest and we are ready to proceed with the prosecution against him when he returns or is returned to the jurisdiction," says the SFO.

The total case book rose from 52 in April 1995 to 70 at the end of March, and the money involved has risen £1bn to £3bn over the last year. Further cases, including Sumitomo, have since raised the number to 77.

In 10 out of 11 SFO trials during the year the principal defendants were convicted – the odd one out being the high-profile Maxwell trial.

The rise in case load is partly due to the threshold for an SFO inquiry being lowered to £1m from £5m. But Mr Staple's budget has fallen £600,000 this year to £10.1m and he said he was pressing for a switch of funds from the CPS to the SFO.

The report discloses that the SFO issued 83 section two notices last year on behalf of 15 foreign investigatory bodies under new powers to help fight international fraud.

£670,00 South West pay-off under fire

The former managing director of South West Water, Bill Fraser, quit the company earlier this year with a pay-off worth £670,000, it emerged yesterday, *writes Michael Harrison.*

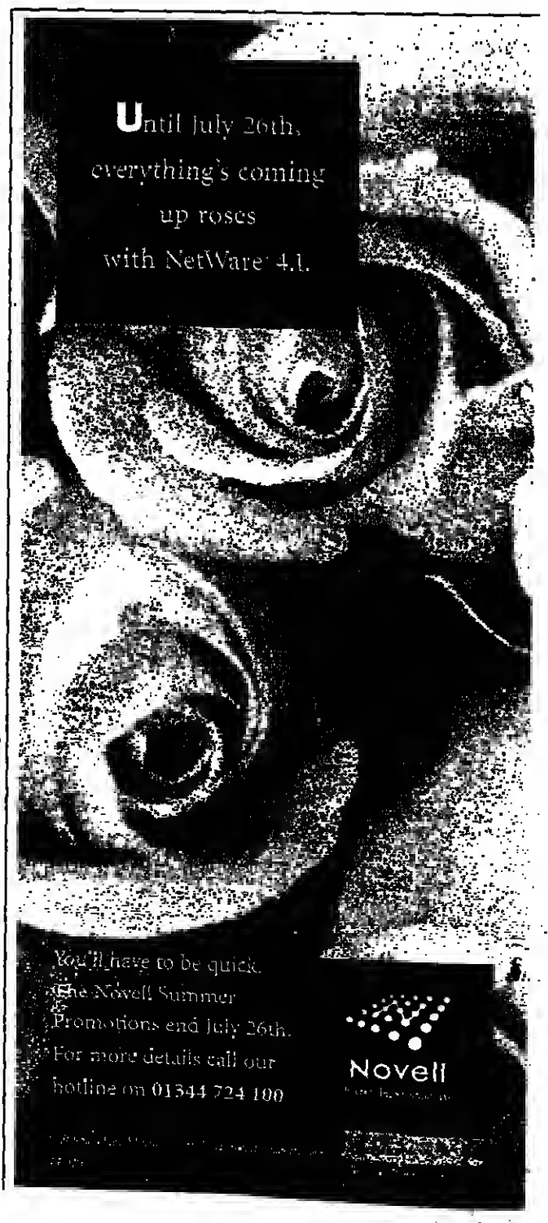
The compensation deal, together with £224,000 in salary and pension benefits, brought his total payments last year to just under £900,000.

Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, immediately attacked the "ridiculous lottery-style pay-out", saying it showed the need for a windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

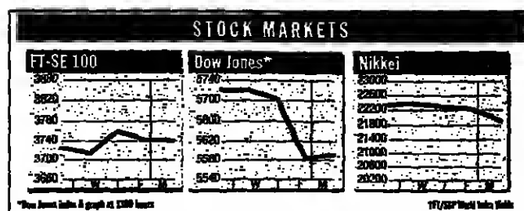
"This money should be getting our youngsters into jobs, not padding out the pockets of utility fat cats," he added. "There should be an urgent inquiry into these payments by the regulator."

South West, which is facing two hostile takeover bids from rival water companies, said Mr Fraser received compensation for loss of office of £336,000. The 1996 report and accounts show that he is also entitled to cash in 116,000 share options showing a paper profit of £284,000. In addition he is receiving a £50,000, 12-month consultancy fee from South West for "access to his international major capital projects experience".

Mr Fraser joined South West in 1990 a year after privatisation and left in February. The company got into trouble last summer after water supplied to the Torbay area was found to contain a bug which made it unfit for human consumption.



STOCK MARKETS

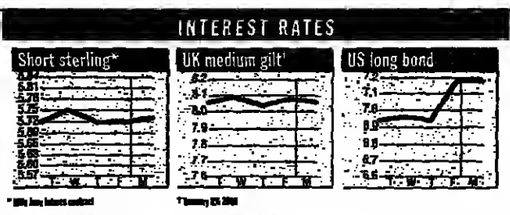


Indices

Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	3741.50	-1.70	-0.0	3857.10	3639.50	4.06
FTSE 250	4339.50	-27.70	-0.6	4568.60	4015.30	3.44
FTSE 350	1881.50	-3.30	-0.2	1945.40	1816.60	3.92
FT Small Cap	2171.96	-14.12	-0.6	2244.36	1954.06	3.00
FT All Share	1864.78	-3.97	-0.2	1924.17	1791.95	3.85
New York *	5591.63	+3.69	+0.1	5778.00	5032.94	2.22
Tokyo	21924.94	-307.48	-1.4	22666.60	19734.70	0.71†
Hong Kong	10890.05	-287.08	-2.6	11594.99	10204.87	3.30†
Frankfurt	2551.04	-32.45	-1.3	2583.49	2253.36	1.82†

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates / Bond Yields *

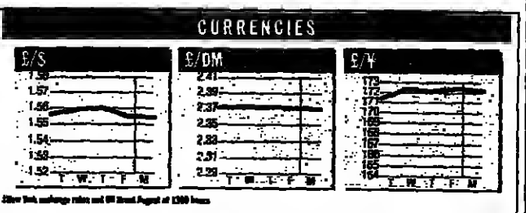
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	(%) Year Ago
UK	5.69	6.10	7.94	8.10	8.06	8.18
US	5.38	5.25	7.06	6.04	7.19	6.52
Japan	0.44	1.13	3.36	2.59	-	-
Germany	3.28	3.63	6.80	6.68	7.14	-

*Benchmark indices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change%	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change
Grand Metropolitan	440	16	4.3	Eurotherm	520	24	4.4
Sun Alliance Group	377	8	2.2	Chiroscience Group	374	17	4.3
Hiv Group	350	7	2.0	British Biotech	2263	97	4.1

CURRENCIES



Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
$ (London)	1.5543	-0.08c	1.5890
$ (N York)‡	1.5570	unch	1.5940
DM (London)	2.3746	-0.15pf	2.2227
¥ (London)	172.250	-¥0.162	136.664
$ Index	86.7	unch	83.7

Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	0.6434	+0.04	0.6293
£ (N York)‡	0.6423	unch	0.6274
DM (London)	1.5278	-0.02pf	1.3988
¥ (London)	110.825	-¥0.06	87.2650
$ Index	97.7	+0.1	90.0

OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago		Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Next Figs
Oil Brent $	19.68	-0.06	16.02	RPI	152.9	+2.2pc	149.8	11 July
Gold $	382.00	+0.35	385.95	GDP	130.3	+1pc	125.2	26 July
Gold £	245.74	+0.32	242.89	Base Rates	—	5.75pc	5.75	—

COMMENT

A lack of vision is blighting corporate Britain

There is something rotten at the core of corporate Britain and, yes, the City may be part of it. No, this is not going to be another rant about executive pay and perks but it is about that other great bug bear - short termism, lack of imagination, lack of strategy, lack of vision, lack of anything very much at all among the time servers of the British boardroom. This is not necessarily the fault of the new generation of cost cutting, rationalising, downsizing, managers, for vision is the last thing the City seems to expect or want of them these days. Nonetheless, they have become part of it. So much so that they now scarcely seem to know any better.

The fact that Guinness could have thought merging with Grand Metropolitan even remotely possible, let alone desirable, is just the latest evidence of sickness at the heart of our major companies. Has Guinness, and its beleaguered chairman, Tony Greener, taken leave of their senses? What could Britain possibly have to gain by allowing its two major liquor companies to merge, apart, that is, from a bit of short lived shareholder value for investors in Guinness? Even that is questionable enough, and yet Guinness allowed this ludicrous idea to reach the stage of fully fledged proposal from its lead City adviser, Lazard Brothers.

Now of course it is the case that fee hungry merchant bankers are always on the lookout for a good wheeze that might generate lucrative business. A proposal from a merchant banker doesn't amount to a plan of action for the company itself. Furthermore, all big companies dream of acquiring their major competitor. Put together the best and the second best and what a team you would create, most executives have wildly imagined at some stage in their careers. But it doesn't work in football nor does it work in business. Put together the best and the second best and you generally end up with, well, the best minus the second best. And that's if you are lucky.

Guinness would have gone through the following thought process before finally rejecting this absurd proposal. How could we possibly persuade the Government to back a merger that would give us more than half the British liquor industry? Answer; Britain needs a national liquor champion, capable of competing with the best in the world on the international stage. So what if domestic competition is harmed a bit, it will make us that much more competitive internationally.

What nonsense. Unfortunately this has become a lamentably familiar justification for fundamentally harmful corporate empire building across a whole range of different industries. Most of us bought it to begin with, but like the connected concept of corporate globalisation, it begins to look more flawed with every deal. This is especially the case in the liquor business, where Britain is already a highly successful international player with three of the top five companies in the world. The idea that one should be allowed to takeover one of the others because it has run out of ideas on what else to do could only really happen in Britain.

Guinness has a very real problem of where to go from here. Its shares have underperformed by an appalling margin in recent years, not because it is an unsuccessful company, but because it has run out steam and has no obvious way of stoking up the fire. Furthermore, it has an awkward shareholder, in the shape of Bernard Arnault of France, more keen than most to see some short term return on his money.

But this is not the way, nor is it the way for most British companies. Long term shareholders - and the City is meant to be full of them these days - ultimately gain very little from consolidating mergers. Managements need to be persuaded to come up with long term objectives and targets, then they need to backed with a degree of patience and commitment that is capable of ignoring even a lengthy blip in the share price.

That's the real way forward and although it may seem like a naive dream, it's a good sight less naive than the investor who continues to think that acquisition strategy is a reasonable substitute for hard graft, vision and a proper sense of business purpose and goals.

Simon Lewis, the newly named director of corporate affairs for British Gas Energy, is variously described as suave, arrogant, politically ambitious and tall, though not necessarily in that order. He is also presumably very nicely off thank you, having been tempted away from the top PR job at NatWest to join the gasmen.

With his arrival in September, British Gas will be full of more spin doctors than you can shake a stick at, though so far the weight of numbers does not seem to have helped very much. The distinction for Mr Lewis is that he will have to earn his crust since the words poisoned and chalice might have been invented for the role he is taking on.

If and when British Gas is demerged, BGE will be the poor relation to the pipeline business TransCo. It will not make much money, it will not pay any dividends, and it may not make it into the Footsie. What it will have is £40bn of liabilities in the shape of British Gas's North Sea take-or-pay contracts and a declining market share as the domestic gas business is opened to full competition from 1998. We do not know exactly what Mr Lewis will earn since he will not be on the board and his salary will not therefore be disclosable. But it is entirely appropriate that he be paid a king's ransom since, as is so often the case, the scale of his task is likely to run in inverse proportion to the prospects for the company.

Mr Lewis says he was drawn by the excitement and challenge. That either suggests he will bring to the job the sure-footedness that British Gas's PR has long cried out for or that he is labouring under a massive misapprehension.

Sam Chisholm at BSkyB and his alter ego at News Corp, Rupert Murdoch, are hardly the types to sit back and let the grass grow under their feet. With the original push into continental European digital TV via a joint venture with Bertelsmann among others now all but dead and buried, they've hot footed it to the competition, the Bavarian media tycoon Leo Kirch.

If all goes according to plan, and this time they are hoping it will, BSkyB ends up with 49 per cent of Kirch's digital enterprise plus an option to take 25 per cent of his sports channel, which has just clinched rights to the World Cup. No money changes hands for the time being but Sky is required to put up an unspecied proportion of the development capital. This is high risk stuff, a bit like Sky itself in the early years, but it does demonstrate both a determination and an ability to move beyond the narrow confines of domestic franchise. Though ageing and nearly blind, Mr Kirch cuts a powerful figure on the German media scene. A close friendship and association with Chancellor Kohl makes him argueably a better ally than Bertelsmann's Michael Dornemann. BSkyB looks like confounding the sceptics yet again.

Sky links up with owner of television rights to World Cup

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB yesterday pulled a digital TV deal from the ashes of its failed alliance with Bertelsmann, confirming a high-stakes venture with Bavarian mogul Leo Kirch to launch digital TV in Germany later this month.

The new alliance, which leaves Bertelsmann and Canal Plus, Sky's former partners, out in the cold for now, will see Murdoch join forces with the owner of the broadcast rights to 15,000 movies and 50,000 hours of television, along with the exclusive rights to the World Cup of football in 2002 and 2006.

Sky sources reported yesterday that no money will change hands, and stressed that the Kirch Group will manage the digital platform in Germany. However, BSkyB will jointly finance the launch, scheduled for 28 July, and will provide transponder space on an Astra satellite and marketing and programming expertise.

The deal will see BSkyB take up to 49 per cent of DF1, Kirch's digital platform in Germany. Sky is also angling for a 25 per cent stake in DSF, Kirch's sports channel.

Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB, said. "This is a major step forward in the new television world."

It is understood that the negotiations leading to yesterday's announcement were started within the past month, and that both sides were eager to reach a deal.

The new alliance could be a direct threat to Bertelsmann, the German media giant, which late last week finalised its controversial deal with CLT to merge the two companies' television assets. That arrangement helped scupper the grand panEuropean alliance grouping Sky, Havas, Bertelsmann and Canal Plus, the French pay-TV giant, earlier this year.

Canal Plus had been upset at CLT's plans to compete in the digital TV market in France, and questioned why Bertelsmann, an alliance partner, would back the rival company. Mr Murdoch, for his part, was concerned about what Sky insiders have called "foot dragging" on the part of Bertelsmann in the preparation of the four-way alliance.

BSkyB confirmed yesterday that it had "withdrawn from the proposed agreement" with Canal Plus, Bertelsmann, and Havas, also a French media company. However, the company said that both Kirch and BSkyB "are prepared to admit other participants which bring strategic value to the project" of a digital platform in Germany.

It is understood that the German digital joint venture, which will feature 17 channels of mostly German-language programming, will have no affect on Sky's own digital plans in the UK. BSkyB has promised to launch a digital satellite service with up to 200 channels by the end of next year.

Gottfried Zmeck, chief executive of DF1, said: "With BSkyB, we have a partner who will enhance the development of our digital pplatform in Germany with its experience as Europe's most successful pay television operator."

Media analysts said yesterday that the Kirch digital network had an advantage over other potential competitors because of Mr Kirch's control of programme rights.

"He has an ironclad grip on the programming rights in Germany," said one senior industry source.

With partners ISL, the marketing company, Kirch last week promised $2.2bn for the rights to the World Cup events in 2002 and 2006. It is understood that BSky intends to negotiate for UK rights to at least some of the matches, and is expected to have a better chance of securing a deal following the announcement of the German joint venture.

Sky sources indicated that the alliance with Kirch could be expanded in other parts of Europe. Kirch has 43 per cent of commercial channel SAT1, 25 per cent of Premier, the analogue pay-TV service, and 10 per cent of Mediaset, Silvio Berlusconi's media conglomerate.

Bertelsmann, which has a long-term strategic alliance with Canal Plus, may yet join the Murdoch-Kirch platform, analysts said last night. They questioned whether there was room for two digital services in Germany, where just 3 per cent of homes now subscribes to pay-TV, compared to about 25 per cent of British homes.

Bertelsmann has said it would launch its own digital platform, using a competing technology, by the end of the year. However, the deal with CLT, which brings together mainstream TV operations in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Britain and France, may end up focusing on terrestrial TV. The battle for the German market is the first stage in a wider war to dominate the European pay-TV sector. It is estimated as many as 33 million homes could subscribe by the year 2004.

High stakes: Leo Kirsh has broadcast rights to 15,000 movies, 50,000 hours of TV and rights to the World Cup

BoS says predators will fail

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Bank of Scotland yesterday made clear that any potential predator would be firmly rebuffed, as it began a two-week international roadshow to help Standard Life sell £840m worth of its shares to institutions.

Sir Bruce Pattullo, Governor of Bank of Scotland, said: "If there is a predator they know they are going to have a pretty hostile fight and that it's probably not worth it at the end of the day."

When Standard Life announced it was selling most of its 31.5 per cent stake in Bank of Scotland Sir Bruce reacted angrily to the surprise news that his major shareholder was bowing out.

But the hatchet has now been buried. After Sir Bruce's protests, Standard agreed not to sell the shares as a block to another investor or through a bought deal by an investment bank.

Instead they are to be marketed in an international offer by BZW, which is selling 29 per cent of the bank for Standard, which is keeping another 2.5 per cent as an investment. The offer of 351 million shares includes 46 million to be used to stabilise the market.

BZW is to allocate the shares according to price but with special preference for large investing institutions that will be long-term holders.

Hanson hits seven-year low in run up to drastic autumn demergers

PATRICK TOOHER

Hanson's shares hit a seven-year low yesterday after the Anglo-American industrial conglomerate unveiled accounting changes that cut the value of its coal and mineral reserves by almost £3bn and knocked £70m a year off profits at its Peabody coal unit.

The company, which is in the throes of splitting itself into four separately quoted firms, said the asset write-downs would not affect operational cash flow or future dividend policy.

However, Hanson's shares came under renewed selling pressure within minutes of the news and dipped to 166.5p. And despite staging a recovery later in the session, the shares still closed at the seven-year low - 171.5p, down 0.5p.

The shares have been in the doldrums ever since Lord Hanson stunned the City earlier this year with his break-up plan.

Commenting on the share price weakness, Hanson vice-chairman Christopher Collins said: "The market hasn't yet seen full information about the new companies. It has caused some uncertainty and there has been some selling by yield funds."

In a demerger update, Hanson said it remained on track to spin off its Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco units in October, while unbundling the new tober, while unbundling the new energy company, to be called The Energy Group plc, should be completed in January 1997. That will leave a Hanson "rump" to focus on building materials.

Hanson said Peabody's operating profits will be £70m a year lower due to changes in the accounting treatment of provisions for coal-related illness and environment funds. Future payments due to the US Federal Coal Industry Black Lung and Abandoned Mined Land Funds total £1.2bn. Under the new accounting policy, payments will be recognised as taxes and treated as a revenue charge based on production volumes, in line US coal company practice.

In turn the book value of mineral reserves for Hanson's cornerstone construction and materials division has been slashed by £2.3bn to £1.3bn while the value of coal reserves at Peabody has been cut by £600m to £1.5bn.

Hanson said both reductions "will have no impact on operational cash flow but will cause a small reduction in future depletion charges and a consequent small increase in profit".

The Anglo-American conglomerate added that clearance had been given by the Inland Revenue for the demerger of its chemical and tobacco units to be tax-free for shareholders. US counsel also advised a similar scenario for American investors.

Hanson also disclosed that fees payable to financial advisers involved in the demerger, which include Rothschilds and Hoare Govett, are expected to be less than £20m.

A series of shareholder roadshows in the US and Britain to drum up institutional interest is planned for September before the first demergers occur the following month.

Lord Hanson: Four-way split plans stunned the City

IN BRIEF

• **A total of 240,000 small investors** have so far applied for £500m-worth of shares in the nuclear generator British Energy, making the public offer almost fully subscribed, the Government's advisers said yesterday. A third of the shares in the offer are being held back for the public, although this may be increased to 50 per cent if demand proves strong. The level of interest in British Energy is running 10 per cent above that for Railtrack which closed more than three-times subscribed. The deadline for applications in the public offer is noon tomorrow while the international offer, which will set the price of the fully-paid shares, closes Friday.

• **Unigate, the dairies to road transport group**, said it was still looking for a large acquisition after it announced the £77.3m purchase of the European margarines and spreads business of Kraft, part of Philip Morris of the US. The latest buy, which includes the Vitalite and Golden Churn brands, will raise its share of the UK market from 14.2 per cent to 25.3 per cent, still some way short of the 44.6 per cent held by Unilever's Van den Bergh offshoot. Unigate said there would be cost savings from integrating the Kraft businesses with the existing St Ivel operation.

• **Dairy Crest revealed** that its chairman, Michael Dowdall, is entitled to a bonus of £50,000 on the company obtaining a stock market listing before next April. The former marketing arm of the old Milk Marketing Board is coming to market next month. Mr Dowdall, who also chairs Geest, is paid a basic salary of £132,613 and will be entitled to share options worth four-times that figure. Chief executive John Houliston receives a basic salary of £232,000 plus bonus.

• **Dorling Kindersley, the print and electronic publisher**, announced the departure of John Sargent, its US chief executive, who is joining St. Martin's Press, a subsidiary of US publishing giant Macmillan. A spokesman said: "He is an excellent executive, and we are sorry to see him go." He added that Mr Sargent, whose parents were both in publishing, had long wanted to return to a "traditional" company. DK has asked headhunters to begin the search for a replacement. Shares lost 14p to 573p on the news.

• **Electronic Retailing Systems**, a supplier of electronic shelf labelling systems, is to become the first company quoted on the US Nasdaq exchange to obtain a listing on the UK's Alternative Investment Market. The Connecticut-based group is raising £7.7m in two placings which will capitalise the company at £30.5m when the shares start trading on 11 July. The company supplies liquid crystal pricing displays for supermarkets which replace paper price tags and provide for price changes to be effected centrally.

• **Somerfield's prospectus** due out later this week is expected to show a price range for its stock market flotation of between £520m-£570m. The supermarket group will also provide more details about its financial performance. In the year to 27 April 1996 operating profits rose by 43 per cent to £110.5m.

• **Allders'** sales in the nine weeks to 29 June were 21 per cent ahead of last year and 13 per cent up on a like-for-like basis. Shareholders approved the proposed £160m sale of Allders International, the duty free shops business, to Nuance International Holding, a subsidiary of SwissAir.

ENTRY FORM

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1.Send completed entry forms, photographs and a cheque or postal order (payable to Heart of Britain) to HEART OF BRITAIN, DEPT NO. HB176, PO BOX 589, TRING, HERTS HP23 4SH. 2. Only black & white or colour prints (max size 6"x4") will be accepted. 3. Your name & address, the title of the photograph and preferred book chapter should be attached to the back of each photograph. [illegible]

SO GET OUT THERE AND SNAP THE WINNER!

business

Tomkins set to unlock Gates

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Tomkins, which embraces everything from bread to petrochemical valves, has stuck doggedly to its conglomerate roots, despite the ending of the City's love affair with the sector. It has been rewarded with a share price which has underperformed the rest of the market for five long years. Although it may be too early to call a change in sentiment, there are straws in the wind which look more hopeful than for some time.

Chief among those is perhaps the potential of Gates, the world's leading maker of automotive belts and hoses, for which Tomkins is paying $1.36bn. After six months waiting for the various approvals, that deal is set to go through at the end of July, giving Tomkins chairman Greg Hutchings and his team the green light for a classic revitalisation job.

Profits at Gates have doubled to £40.3m in the past three years, but margins are well under Tomkins' level. While there has been plenty of investment at the operating end of the business, paternalistic management has left "mom and pop store" reporting systems and lax balance sheet controls. Installing Tomkins' tight controls should provide an immediate boost to margins by weeding out unprofitable lines, while the company talks ambitiously of savings of around £250m from tightening up working capital, particularly stock, at Gates.

That cash flow will come in handy as Tomkins develops the existing product base and expands into new areas. However, Mr Hutchings and his team still have to convince the City. Judging by yesterday's niggardly 3p rise in the share price to 251p, the market, at least, has grown bored with Tomkins' consistent earnings record. The group unveiled pre-tax profits increased by 6.6 per cent to £323m in the year to 27 April, which fed through to earnings per share growth of similar order. The results easily beat the company's forecast in May and mean Tomkins' average annual average earnings increase has outperformed the UK average by nearly 24 percentage points over the past 12 years.

The figures were held back by the particularly severe and prolonged US winter, which cut sales of Murray lawnmowers by a quarter in the peak season of March and April. Operating profits from the professional, garden and leisure division slumped 24 per cent, but some of that should be made up.

The potential for Gates was again reflected in the bread and food divisions which represent the old Ranks Hovis McDougall acquired in 1992. Margins have been raised 30 per cent and around £200m has been invested from cash squeezed out of the business.

With order books rising, profits at Tomkins should hit £425m this year, including Gates, putting the shares on a prospective p/e of 12. Good value, with a share buy-back in prospect to boot.

Low & Bonar wraps up profits

Low & Bonar, the packaging group, stands out in a sector strewn with high-profile casualties of the volatile raw material price cycle. While investors in Rexam, De La Rue and Arjo Wiggins nurse losses incurred from a series of profit warnings, shares in the Dundee-based packager have continued an impressive run that has seen them almost quadruple in value in the last five years.

New chief executive Jim Heilig, who succeeded Jim Leng in October, can justifiably boast that latest interim results "underline our success in concentrating on profitable niches within our packaging, plastics and specialist materials business and our strategy of balancing our group over a number of segments to minimize cyclicality". A broad geographic mix between Europe and north America has also helped.

In the six months to May, pre-tax profits edged 6 per cent higher to £26.2m on sales 4 per cent down at £211m, depressed by lower raw material costs. More significantly, margins continued on their upward path, rising from 11.7 per cent to 13 per cent. Earnings per share rose by a tenth to 18.43p, helped by the purchase last year of a 21 per cent US minority holding.

The results were struck in what Mr Heilig terms "challenging market conditions". In general, Low & Bonar was under pressure to pass on lower raw material prices. In particular, it had a tough time in the US, where packaging margins slipped as exceptionally bad winter weather held back cement sack sales to the construction industry.

Given a strong balance sheet – gearing is just 10 per cent – acquisitions are very much on Mr Heilig's mind. His appetite for expanding into higher-margin plastic and speciality materials businesses remains, despite Bonar's failure to buy Rotonics, a US plastic mouldings supplier, for $31m earlier this year. The deal would have doubled US earnings, but fell through when Rotonics claimed to have found a third party willing to pay more. Mr Heilig has yet to establish who the mystery bidder was and lawyers are on the case.

Francesca Raleigh at broker Panmure Gordon sticks with her full-year forecast of £57m, implying a sub-market multiple of 13, with the shares down 3p at 529p. A core holding in the sector.

Kenwood loses its market veneer

Kenwood Appliances, whose former chief executive Tim Parker left last year to run C & J Clark, remains a name to conjure with in the field of kitchen appliances. Sadly, the brand has lost its tarnish with the stock market. Floated at 285p four years ago, the shares have spent most of the past 18 months below their issue price and today languish at 210p, up 1p yesterday.

The company has been squeezed by sluggish consumer spending, high raw material prices and competition from the Far East. But Kenwood's fall from grace mainly stemmed from the rights funded acquisition of Ariete, an Italian appliance maker, in November 1994.

Yesterday's results for the year to 4 April, showing pre-tax profits up by 16 per cent to £15.6m, suggests that at least some of the market's doubts were well founded. The figures were at the bottom of the range and Ariete's first full year was a pretty mixed bag, with very strong first-half sales falling away in the important second half, which includes Christmas, and plummeting by 23 per cent in the final quarter. Meanwhile, the UK remained difficult for much of the year, although there were signs of improvement nearer the end of the period.

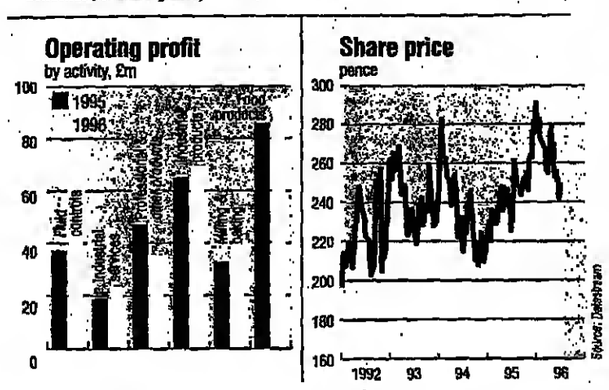
One bright spot was the Mizushi start-up Italian air-conditioning operation, which had a storming first year that may eventually help offset some of the difficulties at Ariete. But this year looks like being another year of consolidation.

Kenwood is developing new products which should help counter pressure on pricing, while it is moving some manufacturing to a low cost factory in China. But a rising tax charge will slow earnings growth in 1996/97. Profits of around £17.5m would put the shares on a forward multiple of just 9. Sentiment will not be improved by talk yesterday of another paper-funded acquisition, possibly in the US. High enough.

Tomkins : at a glance

Market value: £2.986m, share price 251p

Five year record	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Turnover (£bn)	1.27	2.06	3.25	3.73	3.60
Pre-tax profits (£m)	132	171	257	303	323
Earnings per share (pence)	12.7	18.3	15.1	17.5	18.7
Dividends per share (pence)	5.47	6.35	7.38	8.65	9.95



Saddling motorists with striking right balance

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

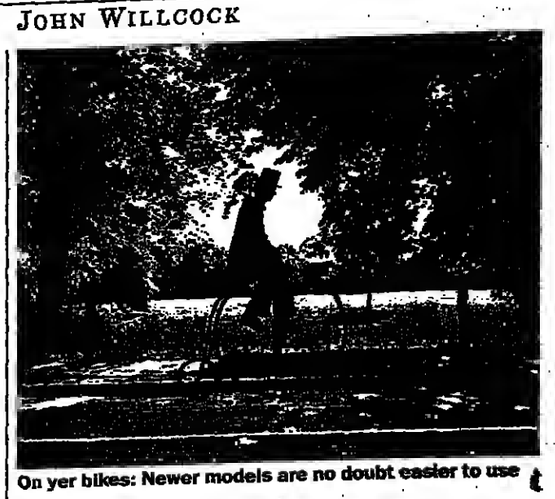
"Get on yer bike!" This is the message from the Government to British business with the launch of its national Cycling Strategy this week, which calls for a quadrupling in cycle use over the next 15 years.

A group of companies in northern Bristol have already pedalled ahead of the pack with their own Project Bike. US computer giant Hewlett Packard, British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce have signed up to Project Bike, which is dedicated to increasing the number of people cycling to work. Peter Andrews, co-ordinator, says: "Lots of new companies are signing up here, and it will be a nightmare if everyone drives."

Hewlett Packard is the Project's star, with over 10 per cent of its 1,400 staff pedalling in every day against the national average of 2-3 per cent. And Hewlett's in-house bicycle user group, or "BUG", is keeping the pressure on recalcitrant drivers.

Richard Purdey, chairman of Merrydown, is also a scion of the Purdey family which makes top-notch shotguns. Mr Purdey recalled yesterday that, when IDV launched the Purdey brand of fruit drinks five years ago, he wrote to the gun company suggesting that they ask for royalties. "I'm afraid it was all a fantasy," Mr Purdey lamented. "There's no trademark protection for the name."

I personally always associated Purdey with the New Avengers character played by the delectable Joanna Lumley.



On yer bikes: Newer models are no doubt easier to use

Hanson has found that dreaming up new corporate names can be tricky as well. Now that Hanson is splitting into four new separately quoted companies, it needs a name for the energy division which includes Eastern Electricity.

Christopher Collins, Hanson vice-chairman, says that it has taken several weeks to settle on a name, since the first choice, Energy Resources, was found to have been taken already by an Australian company. They ended up with The Energy Group, which Mr Collins insists has the virtue of simplicity – it tells you what the company does. Its also a bit flat – hopefully, unlike the company's growth prospects.

Greg Hutchings, chief executive of Tomkins, explains that the company's sales of lawn mowers in the US were hit by bad winter weather which extended into the spring, the peak season for buying Murray mowers. There is a silver lining though, Mr Hutchings adds.

Tomkins has compensated with booming sales of snow blowers, noisy contraptions much beloved of Americans because they blow all the snow on your front path into your neighbour's garden. Such was the demand last winter that one blower was highjacked in New York.

Jim Heilig, chief executive at Scottish packager Low & Bonar, says his company was also hit by the severe US winter with a fall-off in demand for sacks, cement bags, glass seed bags and the like – but saw much higher demand for salt and grit bags to deal with America's snowed-up roads.

At the very least there seems to be a growth market in silver linings. Astronomers are currently reporting that sun spot activity is at a 30-year high. It all fits.

Lively scenes at yesterday's press conference to herald Standard Life's sale of its stake in Bank of Scotland. As journalists descended on the presentation, lawyers for Standard Life insisted that two writers be excluded – both from the *FT*. The company's reason was that the *FT* is published in the US, and under American securities regulations Standard Life would be unable to talk to the *FT* journalists on the record. To their credit, George Graham, the banking correspondent, and a chap from the Lex column marched resolutely in. Will the American side of the sale now be pulled? Watch this space.

ITN sale ends seven-year hitch

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Media giants Granada and Carlton finally complied yesterday with Government ownership regulations, selling an excess 12 per cent shareholding in ITN, the national news service that makes *News at Ten*, to Lord Hollick's United News & Media.

The deal, which values ITN at £106m, brings Carlton and Granada's stake in the company to 20 per cent each and United's to 17 per cent.

United, owner of the Anglia and Meridian ITV franchises, as well as Express newspapers, already owned 5 per cent of ITN.

The announcement ends a seven-year saga at ITN, which has been the subject of negotiations, shifting alliances and bitter battles among leading ITV companies who take the ITN news service.

"It is excellent news that the seven-year controversy surrounding ITN's ownership is resolved," Stuart Purvis, ITN's chief executive, said. "It is particularly good news that it has been resolved in this way."

Carlton and Granada, which held 36 per cent each of ITN until earlier this year, having inherited stakes following their acquisitions, respectively, of Central and London Weekend Television, sold 10 per cent each to Daily Mail & General Trust in April, taking their stakes to 26 per cent each. Yesterday's sale to United brings them down to the 20 per cent limited stipulated in the Broadcasting Act of 1990.

The remaining shareholders of ITN are Reuters with 18 per cent and Scottish Television with 5 per cent.

The Independent Television Commission, which regulates the TV industry, had criticised Granada and Carlton for holding on to their excess shares through "dead-locked" companies, complaining that the arrangements were not in the spirit of the law.

But a Granada source defended the length of time it took to sell off the excess shares, saying it was commercially unfair to be forced to reduce the stake.

The scaling down of the Granada and Carlton positions coincided with negotiations over the renewal of ITN's lucrative contract with the ITV network, under which the news provider was paid £57m a year.

Eurocopy falls as family sells shares worth £7m

Eurocopy, the photocopier group, yesterday announced that a trust acting for the three daughters of its chairman, Cyril Gay, has sold nearly 10 million shares in the company for more than £7m, writes Nic Cicutti.

Shares in the company dropped 16 pence to 74p after the announcement, which reduces the Gay family's combined holding in the firm to 14 million shares, or about 29 per cent.

However, Mr Gay said yesterday he had given an undertaking that no further share placing would be made by himself or his children's trust for two years. He said: "I have three daughters aged 28, 30 and 32 and like a good father, years before we floated, I passed shares on their behalf to an offshore trust.

"They are now old enough to look after themselves and with the co-operation of the trustees, have decided to divest about two-thirds of their holdings. Although Eurocopy is a good investment, it is not ideal to invest all your money in one share. The aim will be to diversify the trust's holding."

Mr Gay said the family's remaining holding meant there was little danger any outside bidder could try to gain control.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
AG Barr (I)	46.2m (41.4m)	1.01m (1.82m)	3.82p (6.37p)	2p (2p)
Beverley (F)	4.15m (1.93m)	-3.02m (-1.23m)	-8.64p (-7.15p)	nil (-)
Bucknall (F)	30.4m (20.0m)	0.91m (0.51m)	3.1p (2.7p)	0.5p (nil)
Firth Holdings (F)	30.3m (21.6m)	1.8m (0.31m)	2.78p (0.47p)	nil (-)
Ivory & Sime (F)	17.3m (16.0m)	6.5m (5.9m)	13.71p (12.95p)	8.25p (7.5p)
Kenwood Appliances (F)	197m (142m)	15.6m (13.5m)	23.8p (22.4p)	10p (10p)
Low & Bonar (I)	211m (219m)	26.2m (24.6m)	18.43p (16.77p)	4p (3.6p)
Merling (F)	67.1m (64.4m)	5.1m (3.5m)	1.63p (0.85p)	0.85p (0.82p)
Megakmedia (F)	1.84m (1.05m)	0.31m (0.10m)	0.73p (0.83p)	nil (-)
Shield Diagnostics (F)	5.83m (4.76m)	0.29m (0.28m)	1.48p (1.48p)	nil (-)
Tomkins (F)	3.60bn (3.72bn)	323m (303m)	18.7p (17.46p)	9.95p (8.65p)
Coutts (F)	61.2m (63.9m)	2.1m (1.6m)	9.72p (6.54p)	3p (3p)
Harry Ramsden's (I)	2.0m (1.67m)	0.17m (0.13m)	1.3p (1p)	1p (1p)
ICC (I)	k48.4m (k47.4m)	k5.85m (k5.54m)	k33.5p (k31.7p)	k6p (-)
Merrydown (F)	37.1m (23.5m)	2.03m (-2.7m)	10.83p (-17.85p)	4.5p (1p)
Prospect Inds (I)	30.3m (30.1m)	-3.09m (10.39m)	-1.03p (-3.78p)	nil (-)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

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How to enter

To enter our Ferrari prize draw you must collect four differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Yesterday in The Independent we printed Token 3, today we are printing Token 4. You will need to send your tokens with a completed entry form which is printed today and will be printed again on Saturday.

Terms and conditions

1. To enter our Ferrari Prize Draw you need to collect 4 differently numbered tokens and complete an entry form.
2. The closing date for entries is 26 July 1996. Send to: The Independent /Ferrari Prize Draw, PO Box 204, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TZ.
3. For missing tokens or an entry form, please send separate SAE's to: The Independent/Ferrari, Token Request or Entry Form, PO Box 92, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1BT. Only 4 tokens are available per application. Requests must be received by first post 19 July 1996.
4. Employees and agents of Newspaper Publishing Plc or those of any other national newspaper company or any firm connected with the promotion are not eligible to take part, neither are their relatives nor members of their families or households.
5. The winner must co-operate for publicity purposes if required and accept that his/her name and photograph will be published in the paper.
6. Photocopies of tokens not accepted.
7. The promoter reserves the right in their absolute discretion to disqualify any entry or competitor, nominee, or to add to, or waive any rules.
8. No correspondence will be entered into. Proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of receipt. The promoter will not take responsibility for entries lost or damaged in the post.
9. Readers may enter more than once, but only one entry can be entered per postal application.
10. The prize will be available to the winner for one month between August and December 1996.
11. The winner must be between 25-70 years of age, have held a full driving licence for a minimum of 2 years and have a satisfactory driving record.
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..... POSTCODE: ..... I confirm that I have held a full driving licence for at least two years

..... (signature)

THE INDEPENDENT TOKEN 4 FERRARI

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Wall St tumble would not mean the end of the world

ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH McRAE

It is not a bad rule of thumb that, when experts agree, one should expect the reverse to happen. Never the less, the expectation is so general that it really does deserve to be taken seriously. The valuation of Wall Street on most measures is at the extreme top end of the scale. The Bank Credit Analyst valuation indicator, shown in the graph, is particularly worrying, but the BCA "fair value" indicator, shown below it, is also well out of line. Put at its lowest, there is a serious possibility that Wall Street will fall sharply before the year is out. The tremors of recent trading will then be seen as early warning of the main shock to come. So even if past experience suggests that the outcome will still surprise, the possibility of a sharp fall in share prices does at least seem serious enough for it to be worth proceeding to the next question: so what?

The central issue here is whether there is a clear linkage between what happens in financial markets and what happens in the real economy. One link is the cross-border one: does a fall on Wall Street lead to a world-wide crash? That, I think, can be quite easily answered by taking two reference points: the relative overvaluation of US markets vis-a-vis the others; and the experience of the recent past. As far as valuation is concerned US shares are indeed expensive on most valuations by comparison with European markets, but they are not absurdly out of line. They are high, but we are high, too. And the history of the last Wall Street crash, of October 1987, suggests a strong linkage with all large markets except Tokyo.

A common sense conclusion would therefore be that a fall on Wall Street would make a serious dent in European share prices, though the fall would not necessarily be a one-for-one relationship.

The other, and in many ways more important link, is between financial markets and the real economy. As the *Economist* pointed out at the weekend, the collapse of the Japanese stock market has proved a serious inhibition on the recovery there. But Japan, with its substantial cross-holdings between companies, the weakness of its bank balance sheets and its tiny dividend yields, really is different from North America and Europe.

In the US the experience of 1987 was that there was virtually no linkage between the financial markets and the real economy. This was not what was expected at the time, with the result that the crash encouraged policy-makers to cut interest rates (to offset the supposed deflationary impact of lower share prices) just at the point in the cycle when they should have been increasing them. This error increased the scale of the late 1980s speculative boom and hence the scale of the early 1990s recession. Have things changed since 1987?

There are several potential reasons why they might. In the US there has been a sharp rise in the proportion of personal wealth held in mutual funds, unit trusts in our parlance. Indeed the flow of savings into these has been one of the main motors between Wall Street's recent strength. Suppose, so the argument runs, these funds are regarded by the holders as something akin to bank balances (though in reality they are nothing of the sort), then were their value to fall US consumers would feel inhibited and cut back their spending. This would be a classic "wealth effect" as outlined in the economics textbooks, where a change in people's wealth, rather than their income, affects their spending.

> 'We like being gloomy; a share price crash would suport our inclinations'

This sort of wealth effect from a change in share prices would be less likely to occur here because share prices play a much smaller role in our direct savings. They are enormously important in indirect savings through life assurance and pensions, but we don not see the notional value of a pension to be claimed in, say, 20 years, as relevant to our current spending, and who can blame us. House prices are far more relevant.

Never the less, personal shareholdings have risen since the late 1980s as a result of the development of Peps, share bonus schemes and the continuing stream of privatisation issues. I think it would be reasonable to expect a sharp fall in shares prices to have some impact on current spending, though more through a perception of confidence in the country's economy rather than any direct influence though the share price movement itself.

Another link is through business confidence. Companies see their share price falling and might feel more concerned about the business climate in general, cut back output and so on. Again this is the sort of thing noted in textbooks, but here I suspect there is even less of a link. Look at the way in which the present share price boom has failed to boost business confidence: the main drivers of that seem to be order books: sustained, profitable, practical demand for the product. True, lower share prices make raising new equity capital more expensive, but the proportion of companies which would need to raise new capital at any one particular time would be limited. Most would wait until things looked up and meanwhile increase their bank borrowings.

Potentially more worrying is the possibility that the Japanese disease would manifest itself in Europe: because of cross-holdings of companies capital a share price fall affecting the solidity of the banking system. This would not happen in the US or the UK because banks are not long-term holders of industrial companies' shares, but it is possible on the Continent, particularly in Germany.

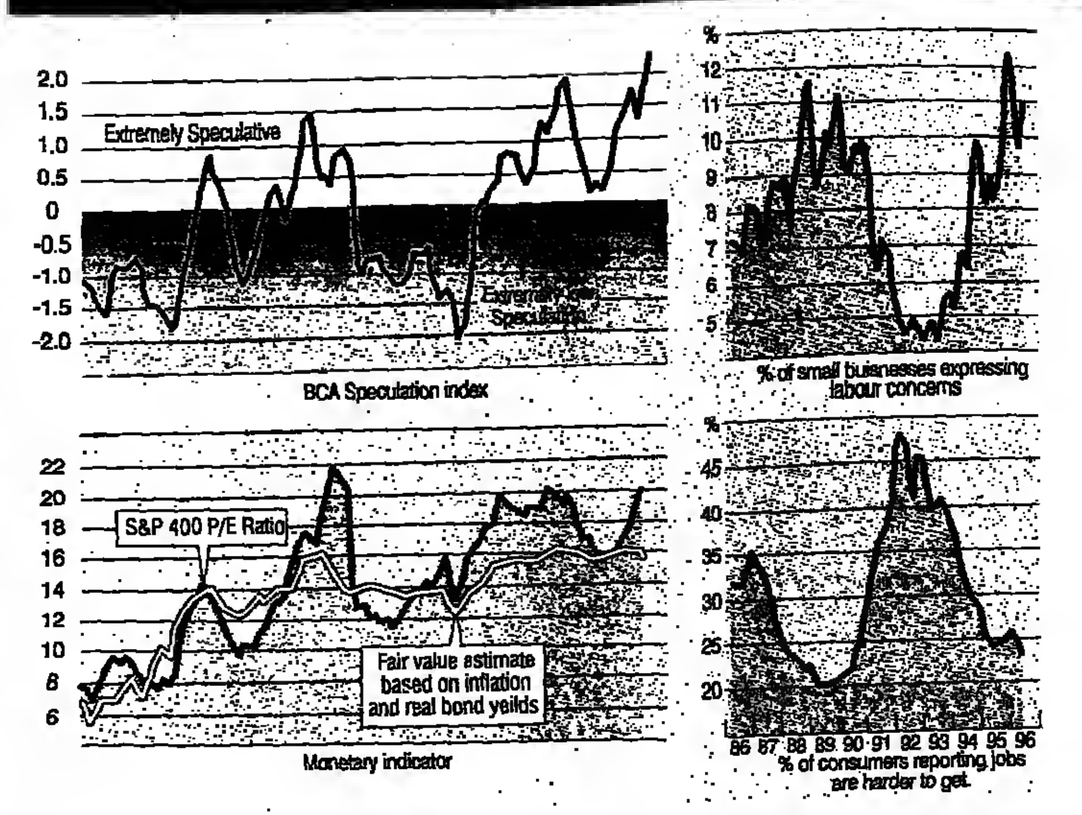
Conventional analysis comes up with a fairly bland conclusion. Yes, a share price collapse would, through the wealth effect, have some impact on demand in the US and to a lesser extent in Britain. But it would not be so dramatic that it could not be countered by a looser monetary policy.

I would go along with that don't-get-excited line were it not for three things. First, the US mutual fund link is important and new: we could see recession in the States, and if that happens it will surely spread here.

Second, the fall in share prices, if delayed into next year, could come at just the time when the next British government had to tighten policy to cut back consumer demand: the danger of the "triple whammy" of higher interest rates and higher taxes coupled with lower share prices all hitting the economy at just the wrong time. Remember, the US economy is at full capacity, with pressure on the labour market, as shown in the graphs on the right, and in any case faces higher interest rates. Higher interest rates there will help drag up rates here.

Finally, the share-owning culture may have taken more root here than we realise and a change in the spending habits of a small proportion of the fairly rich might trickle down. We like being gloomy; a share price crash would give us additional support for our inclinations.

US market and economy under pressure



Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 months	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark Spot
US	1.5543	4-2	5-2	1.000	—	—	0.6545
Canada	2.1294	11-3	50-37	1.3701	2-1	2-0	0.8968
Germany	2.3746	48-41	140-130	1.5278	26-24	84-81	1.0000
France	8.0386	132-119	365-334	5.1720	73-66	217-207	3.3853
Italy	2388.1	49-63	142-166	1536.5	44-51	123-135	1005.69
Japan	172.25	75-70	225-218	110.82	45-44	136-133	72.5389
ECU	1.2537	15-11	45-40	1.2398	7-8	23-25	0.5279
Belgium	48.889	12-7	32-25	31.455	6-5	18-16	20.5884
Denmark	9.1491	159-116	446-235	5.8865	85-65	270-220	3.8529
Netherlands	2.6648	65-57	187-174	1.7145	35-32	107-102	1.1222
Ireland	0.9746	7-5	20-14	1.5948	4-7	12-17	0.4104
Norway	10.143	120-50	310-200	6.5261	42-17	110-60	4.2716
Spain	199.57	21-31	69-86	128.40	23-27	64-72	84.0424
Sweden	10.408	0-8	1-9	6.6967	98-123	260-310	4.3832
Switzerland	1.9635	54-46	165-152	1.2633	37-34	113-107	0.8269
Australia*	1.9574	20-31	67-85	1.2593	19-21	54-56	0.8242
Hong Kong	12.031	101-61	234-170	7.7410	2-12	15-35	5.0668
Malaysia	3.8755	0-0	0-0	2.4935	4-14	60-80	1.6321
New Zealand*	2.2560	43-57	133-156	1.4514	30-32	88-90	0.9500
Saudi Arabia	5.8293	0-0	0-0	3.7506	2-7	9-14	2.4549
Singapore	2.1885	0-0	0-0	1.4145	41-30	103-88	0.9258

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.5525	0.9987	Nigeria	125.946	81.0200
Austria	16.7118	10.7524	Oman	0.5985	0.3850
Brazil	1.5617	1.0046	Pakistan	54.5084	35.0649
China	12.9314	8.3187	Philippines	40.7590	26.2200
Egypt	5.2933	3.4066	Portugal	244.111	157.060
Finland	7.2499	4.6636	Qatar	5.6584	3.6412
Ghana	2556.33	1645.00	Russia	7968.37	5126.00
Greece	373.049	239.980	South Africa	6.7465	4.3400
India	54.7874	35.2500	Taiwan	43.0286	27.6800
Kuwait	0.4670	0.3004	UAE	5.7098	3.6731

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount: subtract from spot rate
rate quoted low to high are at a premium: add to spot rate
*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals.
For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033.
Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	5.75%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.75%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.55%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.25%	Discount	2.50%
Italy		Prime	7.00%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	9.00%	Discount	5.00%	10-Day Repo	7.25%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.50%
Advances	2.60%	Discount	3.25%	Repo (Ave)	6.10%	Lombard	4.125%

Bond Yields

HSBC Markets Research

Country	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %	Country	5yr	yield %	10yr	yield %
UK	7¼%	7.39	7½%	7.95	Netherlands	8¼%	5.82	6¼%	6.54
US	6¼%	6.84	6⅝%	7.07	Spain	10.10%	8.07	10.15%	8.81
Japan	5.51%	2.36	3¼%	3.29	Italy	9½%	8.74	9½%	9.35
Australia	8½%	8.58	10%	8.91	Belgium	5%	5.77	7%	6.86
Germany	5.381%	5.70	6.251%	6.60	Sweden	13%	7.58	6%	8.35
France	5¾%	5.70	7.25%	6.57	ECU OAT	6%	6.14	7½%	7.02

Yields calculated on local basis. †new benchmark

Money Market Rates

	O'Night		7 Day		1 Month		3		6 Months		1 Year	
Interbank	5	6⅛	5¾	6⅛	6⅛	5¾	5¾	5¾	5⅞	5⅞	6	6⅛
Sterling CDs	-		-		5¾		5⅞		5⅞		5⅞	
Local Authority Deps	5¾		5¾		5¾		5¾		5¾		6⅛	
Discount Market Deps	5¾		5¾		-		-		-		-	
Treasury Bills (Buy)	-		-		5⅞		5¾		-		-	
Dollar CDs	-		-		5.30		5.35		5.53		5.93	
ECU Linked Dep	-		-		4⅞	4⅞	4⅞	4⅞	4⅞	4⅞	4⅞	4⅞

Tourist Rates

£ Buys		£ Buys		£ Buys	
Australia(Dollars)	1.9325	France(Francs)	7.7550	New Zealand(Dollars)	2.2000
Austria(Schillings)	16.1950	Germany(Marks)	2.3025	Norway(Kroner)	9.8000
Belgium(Francs)	47.3000	Greece(Drachmae)	364.5000	Portugal(Escudos)	236.0000
Canada(Dollars)	2.0700	Hong Kong(Dollars)	11.7700	Spain(Pesetas)	191.7500
Cyprus(Pounds)	0.7065	Ireland(Punts)	0.9450	Sweden(Kronor)	10.0900
Denmark(Kroner)	8.9100	Italy(Lira)	2335.0000	Switzerland(Francs)	1.8700
Holland(Guilders)	2.5850	Japan(Yen)	169.7500	Turkey(Lira)	120898.0000
Finland(Marks)	7.1800	Malta(Lri)	0.5495	United States(Dollars)	1.5100

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low for day		EstConts traded	Open interest
Long Gilt	(Sep 96)	106-10	106-15	105-24	35482	128308
German Bond	(Sep 96)	95.13	95.30	94.85	123486	205085
J G Bond	(Sep 96)	118.45	118.46	118.35	1447	0
Italian Bond	(Sep 96)	117.21	117.42	116.85	28782	85219
3M Sterling	(Sep 96)	94.27	94.27	94.24	10417	90805
	(Dec 96)	94.14	94.15	94.07	17022	82529
3M Euro Yen	(Dec 96)	98.72	98.72	98.71	79	N/A
	(Mar 97)	98.41	98.41	98.40	444	N/A
3M Euromark	(Sep 96)	96.52	96.53	96.49	18283	198884
	(Dec 96)	96.28	96.29	96.23	26686	200106
ECU	(Sep 96)	96.53	95.53	95.51	500	7232
	(Dec 96)	95.37	95.37	95.35	433	4844
Euro SFr	(Sep 96)	97.21	97.25	97.18	8032	36858
FT-SE 100	(Sep 96)	3735.0	3784.0	3716.0	10862	52425
FT-SE 250	(Sep 96)	4340.0			0	3740
Eurolra	(Sep 96)	91.82	91.87	91.88	18759	83843

Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price: 3742.0 — closing offer price

Series	3650	3700	3750	3800	Call/Put Total/vols
July	81/6	52/16	22/38	6/72	..
Aug	106/27	72/43	44/68	25/96	..
Sep	127/44	96/63	68/84	45/111	..
Oct	149/44	117/79	90/102	68/128	..

Energy

Brent Crude ($/barrel) IPE 5.30pm	*chg	Yr ago	Gas oil ($/tonne) IPE	close	*chg	WTI	8pm	Products † ($/tonne) Spot CIF NW Europe	
Aug 19.59	-0.05	16.58	Jul	175.75	-0.75	Aug	21.50	Unleaded Gasoline	208/210
Sep 19.81	-0.09	16.56	Aug	172.00	-1.00	Sep	20.70	Naphtha	167/68
Oct 18.61	-0.05	16.53	Sep	170.50	-0.75	Oct	19.95	EC Gasoil	180/83
Vol: 27,544	Index: 19.75		Vol:	15,689		Nov	19.40	Heavy Fuel Oil	86/88

*since 5.30pm previous day. Year ago prices average for week. Source: ICIS-London Oil Reports †Bank prices

Commodity Indices

GCSI Indices

	Base date	+Spot	%chg Day	31 Dec	%chg YTD	Year ago	%chg Yr
Index	1970=100	207.89	-0.14	203.50	+2.16	171.88	+20.97
Agricultural	1970=100	278.63	-1.14	281.75	-1.11	244.02	+14.18
Energy	1983=100	75.28	0.00	71.31	+5.58	55.49	+35.67
Industrl Metals	1977=100	164.82	+0.21	193.32	-14.84	205.17	-19.78
Livestock	1970=100	184.70	+1.21	182.71	+6.56	189.37	+14.85
Precious Metals	1973=100	482.82	0.00	488.88	-1.48	480.77	-1.86

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. GSCI is a trademark and servicemark of Goldman, Sachs & Co. †Close as of 5 July 1996

Industrial Metals

London Metal Exchange

	$/tonne Cash	3 mths	Volume	LME Stocks		chg
Aluminium HG	1467-68	1504-05	37690	904825	-	2650
Aluminium Alloy	1245-50	1280-85	982	85900	+	520
Copper A	1998-98	1935-36	47441	241800	-	11700
Lead	788-89	793-94	4586	94400	-	50
Nickel	7520-30	7630-40	9253	32400	-	1560
Tin	6355-60	6396-86	3989	10765	+	43
Zinc	1004.5-05.5	1032-33	12348	585925	-	3175

Settlement Conversion exchange rates: £/$ 1.5535; $/Dm 1.5297; $/¥ 111.00. Stock volumes & change in tonnes as at Friday 5 July

Precious Metals

Spink & Son

per fin (oz)	$	£	Coins	$	£		$	£
Platinum	390.00	251.05	Britannia	398	257	Krugrands	373/85	240/48
Palladium	130.75	84.15	Britannia.5 oz	202	130	Sovs	87/93	56/60
Silver spot	5.12	3.30	Britannia.25 oz	99	64	Nobles	380/96	245.55
Gold Bullion	381.90	245.71	Britannia.10 oz	51	33	Maple Leaf	384/99	247/57

Agricultural

Prices as at 6 July

Cocoa LCE	£/tonne	Coffee LCE	$/tonne	Barley LCE	£/tonne	Potatoes LCE	£/tonne	Potatoes ATA	
Jul	1048	Jul	1858	Sep	104.00	Nov	85.00		
Sep	1070	Sep	1038	Nov	105.90	Mar	110.00	Mar	23
Dec	1048	Nov	1801	Jan	107.85	Apr	123.80	Apr	21
Vol:	1,088	Vol:	2,708	Vol:	68	Vol:	62	Vol:	128

White Sugar LCE	$/tonne	Freight LCE	$10/index pt	Wheat LCE	£/tonne	Corn CBOT	Cents/bushel Hi-Lo	Sett
Aug	379.50	Jun	1111	Jul	108.76	Jul	546.50-525.00	538.55
Oct	353.40	Jul	1104	Sep	110.50	Sep	410.00-400.00	407.00
Dec	341.70	Vol:	440	Nov	112.50	Dec	360.50-355.00	355.25
Vol	5,023	Index	1157	Vol:	177			

Other Softs

May	Maize (No3)***	$/tonne	unq	July	Soya Oil	FL/100kg	900
June/July	Copra (†)	$/tonne	1500	Jun/July	Coconut Oil (†)	$/tonne	825.0
July	Cotton (NY)	UScent/lb	71.25	Aug	Sunflower Oils	$/tonne	565.0
Aug	Wool	Acent/kg	705.0	July	Rapeseed Oil	$FL/100kg	94.6
Aug	Rubber*	Mcent/kg	338.0	June/July	Groundnut Oil	$/tonne	953

Origins: $Dutch/EC - any origin • †Philippines/Indonesia *Malaysia **† Europe Source: FT Information/Reuters

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers			
AXA Equity & Law Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1GD			
Tel: 01203 553231			
General Acc	6469	6882	2.51
General Inc	5497	5848	2.51
UK Growth Acc	4398	4679	2.71
UK Growth Inc	2887	3072	2.71
Higher Inc Acc	7730	8224	4.23
Higher Inc Inc	4216	4486	4.23
Gilt Fxd Int Acc	2075	2181	5.63
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	9313	9636	5.63
Nth America	3776	4018	0.60
Europe	3621	3853	0.37
Japan Tst Acc	4828	6137	0.00
Pacific Basin Tst Acc	450	4415	0.79
Bit Exc	8713	9270	d2.90
Em Friends Acc	1118	1180	4.79
Em Friends Inc	7681	8151	4.79
Global Opps	1054	1122	d0.00
Balanced Acc	6240	6639	2.64
Balanced Inc	5905	6282	2.64
Barclays Unicorn Limited			
11 Broadway, Stratford, London, E15 4BJ			
Tel: 0181 5345544			
Balanced Trusts			
Extra Inv Fd Acc	8579	8937	2.52
Extra Inv Fd Inc	4084	4254	2.52
European Bd Acc	1141	1181	6.66
European Bd Inc	9654	9932	6.66
Exempt	7954	8483	3
Financial	9550	1021	d2.75
500	5209	5683	2.35
General	3146	3371	2.61
Property	2400	2575	d6.37
Trustee	2163	2315	d2.4
Income Trusts			
Cash Acc	1229	1229	5.14
Cash Inc	1000	1000	d5.14
Distribution	1106	1112	d6.31
Extra Income	1330	1422	4.9
Gilt & Fxd Int*	5759	5961	d8.04
Income	5763	6163	4.77
Income Builder	6798	7251	5.5
Int Income	6930	7372	d2.67
Growth Trusts - UK			
Capital	1379	1471	2.17
Growth Acc	4102	4376	2.2
Leisure	1784	1905	0.67
Recovery	4777	5109	2.82
Smlr Cos Acc	6974	7479	1.98
Smlr Cos Inc	6012	6447	1.98
Special Sits	3868	4137	0.86
Growth Trusts - Overseas			
America	1721	1829	0.07
Amer Recovery Acc	1278	1362	
Aust Acc	2782	2969	1.92
Aust Inc	1664	1776	d1.92
Euro Gwth Acc	2075	2204	0.54
Euro Gwth Inc	1922	2041	0.54
Japan & Gen Acc	1609	1703	
Japan & Gen Inc	1590	1684	
Japan Spec Sits	7439	7891	
Tst Assets	1996	2119	d0.56
*Also known as Income Manager PEP			
Baring Fund Managers Ltd			
PO Box 831, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3YS			
Enq: 0171 702 8450			
American Growth	1283	1361	0.0
American Smlr Cos	1663	1785	0.0
Convertibles	6028	6462	d4.9
Eastern	3129	3363	0.3
Equity Income	9576	1021	3.8
European Growth	3723	3955	0.8
Europe Select	3632	3863	d1.6
Exempt	1036	1064	3.0
Exempt Fixed Interest	1012	1023	d5.0
German Growth	8970	9505	0.5
Global Bond	1384	1451	6.5
Global Growth	1458	1571	0.4
Japan Growth	2063	2200	0.0
Japan Sunrise	1746	1858	0.0
Korea Trust	7116	7779	0.0
Portfolio	1445	1546	2.3
Portfolio Acc	2732	2895	2.3
UK Growth	9988	1089	d2.6
UK Smaller Cos	9877	1071	1.5
Select Managers	8949	9599	1.0
Charity Fund			
Overseas Gwth Exempt	7577	7878	0.1
Commercial Union Trust Managers			
Prestige Portfolio (PPT Funds)			
Income Funds			
Equity Income	18930	19677	4.67
Equity Income Acc	22722	24242	4.67
Long Gilt	4139	4360	d6.49
Long Gilt Acc	12345	12891	d6.49
Monthly Income Plus	4875	5078	2.82
Monthly Income Plus Acc	5348	5671	8.82
Preference Share	4606	4799	d8.30
Preference Share Acc	29073	30130	d8.30
Balanced Funds			
High Yield	13659	14228	d6.00
High Yield Acc	6277	6506	d6.00
Managed Fund	7708	8029	2.67
Managed Fund Acc	10136	10558	2.67
UK Growth Funds			
Smaller Cos	5235	5453	1.74
Smaller Cos Acc	6188	6446	1.74
UK & General	9384	9775	2.64
UK & General Acc	12171	12678	2.64
UK Growth	18768	19550	1.44
International Growth Funds			
Europe Growth	21422	22315	0.65
Far Eastern Growth	14417	15018	0.02
Global Bond	8066	8402	5.90
Global Bond Acc	9350	9740	5.90
Japan Growth	11893	13493	0.00
North American Growth	23746	24735	0.00
Oriental Growth	8631	8991	0.28
Worldwide Growth	7556	7870	0.00
Worldwide Growth Acc	7889	8218	0.10
Other CU Unit Trusts (non PPT Funds)			
CUDOS Japan Equity	11305	11463	0.00
CUDOS UK Equity	10679	10860	2.04
CUDOS US Equity	11074	11219	0.89
Deposit Fund	9246	9246	5.20
Deposit Fund Acc	10484	10484	5.20
Homemaker Fund	9160	9745	1.56
Quilter Fund	15259	16033	1.93
Quilter Fund Acc	17958	19104	1.93
CU Morley (Indy Geoffrey Morley UM Ltd)			
Exempt Unit Trust	20463	20984	d2.19
Framlington Unit Mngt Ltd			
155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT			
Tel: 0171-374 4100, Dealing 0171 330 6500			
American Growth	7911	8425	0.00
(Accum Units)	7911	8425	0.00
Amer Smlr Cos	7032	7521	0.00
(Accum Units)	7183	7682	0.00
Capital Tst	3945	4197	1.5
(Accum Units)	5763	6133	1.5
Contl Smlr Cos	6318	6729	d0.42
(Accum Units)	6704	7143	d0.42
Convertible	1405	1495	d5.86
(Accum Units)	3044	3238	d5.86
Emerging Markets	7232	7728	0.3
(Accum Units)	7257	7753	0.3
European	1514	1605	d0.45
(Accum Units)	1604	1701	d0.45
Exempt Balanced	7784	7940	2.57
(Accum Units)	8058	8434	2.57
Extra Income	3831	4078	4.1
(Accum Units)	5964	6345	4.1
Financial	1653	1759	0.46
(Accum Units)	1757	1869	0.46
Gilt Trust	6408	6605	6.79
(Accum Units)	9792	1009	6.79
Health Fund Inc	2817	3010	0.00
Health Fund Acc	2817	3010	0.00
Income & Growth	2252	2396	d4.02
(Accum Units)	3568	3798	d4.02
Intl Growth	4503	4798	0.00
(Accum Units)	5001	5327	0.00
Japan & Gen	1842	1966	0.00
(Accum Units)	1860	1976	0.00
Mgd Distribution Inc	5353	5656	3.71
(Accum Units)	5651	5974	3.71
Managed Portfolio Inc	1201	1264	1.42
(Accum Units)	1305	1374	1.42
Monthly Income	1915	2037	d4.38
Quarterly Income	5681	6102	d4.91
(Accum Units)	6421	6898	d4.91
Recovery	3788	4051	0.23
(Accum Units)	4471	4782	0.23
UK Growth	6444	6855	d2.98
(Accum Units)	6888	7434	d2.98
Friends Provident Unit Trust Managers Ltd			
United Kingdom Hse, Castle St, Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 3SH Enquiries: 01722 713834 Dealing: 01722 713635			
FP Managed Portfolio Service			
Capital Gwth Acc	12680	13480	1.60
Open Capital Gwth Acc	13190	14030	0.14
Cap Gwth w Income Inc	11580	12630	2.91
(Accum Units)	12430	13220	2.91
Open Cap Gwth w Inc Inc	12073	12840	3.25
(Accum Units)	12700	13510	2.35
FP Unit Trusts			
FP American	6082	6448	0.0
(Accum Units)	6764	7185	0.0
FP Amer Smlr Cos	20880	22340	0.00
FP Asian Growth	29270	30300	d0.00
(Accum Units)	30720	32650	0.00
FP Australian	4010	4320	0.0
(Accum Units)	45350	45650	0.0
FP Euro Gth	28510	30320	0.0
(Accum Units)	31180	33170	0.0
FP Equity	43930	46620	2.54
(Accum Units)	96642	10280	2.54
FPAM Inst UK Sm Co Inc	10830	11330	d1.84
(Accum Units)	10830	11320	1.84
FP International Bond	5334	5279	4.45
(Accum Units)	16220	16950	4.45
FP Intl Gwth	3888	4147	0.0
(Accum Units)	5679	6055	0.0
FP Pacific Basin Accum	22850	24430	0.0
FP Income	5679	6056	d5.20
(Accum Units)	19842	21160	5.20
FP Jap Sm Cos Accum	32762	34940	0.0
FP Monthly Distribution	7415	7923	d5.78
(Accum Units)	13100	13990	5.78
FP Sterling Deposit	10000	10000	d5.05
(Accum Units)	11470	11470	5.05
FP Tokyo	8709	9289	0.00
(Accum Units)	8737	9383	0.00
FP UK Focus	4113	4410	2.51
(Accum Units)	5087	5369	2.51
FP UK Growth	18910	20170	d2.39
(Accum Units)	38130	40630	2.39
Stewardship	42650	45370	1.41
(Accum Units)	53470	56880	1.41
Stewdshp Inc	8351	8883	4.81
(Accum Units)	11330	12030	4.81
Am Stwdshp	12240	13120	d0.36
(Accum Units)	13280	14100	0.36
Gartmore Fund Managers			
Gartmore House, 16-18 Monument St, London EC3R 8QQ			
Tel: 0171-782 2000 Dealing only: 01277-264421			
UK Growth Funds			
British Growth	5835	6233	1.82
Cash Trust	14488	14488	5.22
Practical Inv (Inc)	12246	13087	3.67
Do (Accum)	28881	30869	3.67
UK Index	17440	17528	3.30
UK Smaller Cos	19273	20619	1.58
Income Funds			
Extra Yield	2444	2633	7.86
High Income	3326	3615	5.23
UK Equity Income	15416	16509	3.05
Global Bond	2945	3257	d5.34
International Funds			
Emerging Markets	4883	5222	0.00
Global Managed*	15297	16263	1.29
Gold & Intl Res	12078	12915	d0.00
Global Utilities	14702	15684	d1.24
Overseas Funds			
American	20215	21468	d1.02
European	13634	14464	0.81
Euro Sel Opps	20725	22204	0.00
American Emerging	18232	19498	0.00
Hong Kong	16193	17307	1.59
Japan	25553	27185	0.00
Pacific Growth	23488	25121	d0.00
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds			
Managed Equity	25654	25654	d1.36
Long Term Bal	27447	27447	d2.76
Med Term Bal	22527	22527	d3.01
UK Equity	29322	29322	2.53
UK Emerging Cos	18083	18083	d1.85
American	31986	31986	0.96
Japan	14043	14043	0.00
European	34887	34887	0.94
Index Linked Gilt	15057	15057	d2.71
Fixed Interest	17146	17146	6.54
Amer Emerging Cos	41422	41422	0.00
Pacific	25007	25007	d0.80
Emerging Mkts	13334	13334	0.40
Index Strat Japan	15510	15510	0.00
Index Strat Pacific Rim	21053	21053	1.32
Index Strat Cont Eu	16890	16890	1.71
Index Strat USA	19742	19742	1.70
Overseas Bond Strategy	10603	10603	d5.07
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds			
Managed Equity	12386	12957	-
Med Term Balanced	10727	11411	-
Long Term Balanced	12337	13124	-
UK Equity	13825	14476	-
UK Emerging Cos	8471	9011	-
American	14798	15742	-
Japan	6703	7136	-
European	14472	15395	-
Fixed Interest	8799	9360	-
Index Linked Gilt	8033	8542	-
Deposit	8665	9219	-
Emerging Markets	5064	5387	-
Pacific	7128	7582	-
Broker Unit Trusts			
SWH International	16533	17139	3.49
Brandt Gth P'folio Inc	7394	7824	3.60
Do (Accum)	7476	7932	3.60
Brandt Inc P'folio Inc	6182	6553	[illegible]
Do (Accum)	6722	7150	[illegible]
Brandt Wwde P'folio	6354	6777	[illegible]
Govett (John) Unit Management Ltd			
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR			
Tel: 0171 378 7979			
HSBC Unit Trust Management Ltd			
Japan Index	£11.4378	£12.0859	0.00
US Index	£18.5106	£19.5505	3.50
Cash	£9.5703	£9.5162	5.25
UK Bear	£8.2879	£8.6382	4.75
Japan Bear	£8.3149	£8.7661	0.00
US Bear	£8.3596	£8.7169	3.50
Dollar Bull	£13.8818	£14.6679	3.50
Dollar Bear	£6.7193	£7.0928	4.75
Gilt Bull	£11.2581	£11.8785	4.75
Gilt Bear	£6.7712	£7.0829	4.75
6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7QP Advisers: 0800 181899 Investors: 0800 289505 Dealing: 0171 955 5055			
Barron	9886	1055	2.81
Barron Fund Initial Charge 5.0 percent			
Legal & General (UT Managers) Ltd			
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex			
Enquiries: 01277 227300 Dealing: 01277 690395			
Cash Accum	6856	6856	d5.57
Equity Dist	56320	59920	2.62
Equity Accum	114700	122000	2.62
Equity Income	10430	11100	4.69
UK Tactical Allocation	6334	6727	d4.36
European	14560	15490	1.03
Far Eastern	24180	25700	
Fixed Interest	5305	5643	d7.05
Gilt	8934	9538	6.40
Global Growth	8658	9211	d0.39
Intl Bond	5397	5724	3.2
Japanese	7735	8293	
North American	21420	22790	0.60
Pacific Growth	12610	13330	0.02
UK Index	7416	7787	3.12
UK Recovery	7810	8240	1.97
UK Smaller Cos	16870	17430	d1.03
UK Stockmarket Acc	6749	6749	d1.97
US Index	8238	8694	d1.33
European Index	8235	8747	1.82
Japan Index	4237	4472	d
Worldwide	9987	10560	d1.33
Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd			
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4JF			
Tel: 01634 836000 Dealing: 01634 834313			
Balanced Inc	39280	41790	3.46
Balanced Acc	92890	98830	3.46
Contl Europe Gr Inc	6450	6895	0.61
Contl Europe Gr Acc	9093	9573	0.51
Extra Income Inc	27420	29180	4.13
Extra Income Acc	75090	79890	4.13
FT-SE 100 Inc	11850	12400	2.69
FT-SE 100 Acc	11880	12620	2.69
German Growth Inc	13640	14560	
German Growth Acc	14100	15050	
Growth Portfolio Inc	66210	70440	
Growth Portfolio Acc	68185	72540	
High Interest Inc	9612	9981	d7.99
High Interest Acc	10020	10390	7.98
Income Inc	53390	56800	3.28
Income Acc	150400	160000	3.28
Income Portfolio Inc	54340	57810	4.50
Income Portfolio Acc	60120	64180	4.50
Japan Growth Inc	11370	12100	
Japan Growth Acc	11430	12140	
Master Trust Inc	6748	7177	d1.25
Master Trust Acc	7730	8288	1.25
Millennium Acc	9092	9673	2.40
American & Gen Inc	24620	26200	
American & Gen Acc	28470	30290	
Am Sm Cos & Rec Inc	21050	22400	
Am Sm Cos & Rec Acc	21490	22870	
Pacific Basin Inc	27800	29580	0.14
Pacific Basin Acc	29610	31500	0.14
Smllr Cos & Rec Inc	52250	55700	1.59
Smllr Cos & Rec Acc	71600	76170	1.59
UK Equity Growth	7590	7600	2.85
UK Equity Income	12430	13220	4.05
UK Growth Inc	10100	10750	d2.07
UK Growth Acc	12670	13480	2.07
Worldwide Growth Inc	36770	39120	
Worldwide Growth Acc	54340	57810	
Premier Exempt	16520	17290	d2.62
Lloyds Exempt Umbrella Trust			
European Acc	22170	23090	1.65
Far Eastern Acc	7535	7958	1.72
Japan Acc	5267	5506	
North American Acc	23650	24540	1.49
UK Equity Acc	26500	28660	2.71
UK Small Cos Acc	15370	16320	1.90
M & G Securities Limited			
M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB			
Customer Services Unit Dealing: 01245 266266			
Amer & General	5342	5637	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	6561	6920	[illegible]
Amer Recovery	5752	6093	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	6605	7017	0.27
Compound Growth	10703	11318	2.97
(Accum Units)	11675	12346	2.97
Corporate Bond	2477	2489	[illegible]
Dividend	4320	4570	4.8
(Accum Units)	1912	2025	4.8
Equity Income	3509	3713	5.05
(Accum Units)	4752	5026	5.05
European & General	8453	8908	d0.88
(Accum Units)	8268	8743	d0.88
European Dividend	8240	8710	3.62
(Accum Units)	1024	1083	3.52
Extra Yield	4449	4747	5.16
(Accum Units)	14784	15633	5.16
Far Eastern	3895	4120	0.85
(Accum Units)	5189	5486	0.85
Fund of Inv Tsts	6944	7343	d1.87
(Accum Units)	13327	14093	d1.87
General	6630	7010	d3.82
(Accum Units)	1954	2065	d3.82
Gilt Income	8038	8047	7.3
(Accum Units)	18029	18055	7.3
Gold	8300	8780	1.58
(Accum Units)	9860	1043	1.58
High Income	3160	3340	d4.87
(Accum Units)	1350	1428	d4.87
Intl Growth	8330	8870	0.59
(Accum Units)	1642	1738	0.59
International Inc	1101	1164	4.52
(Accum Units)	1724	1823	4.52
Japan & Gen	4380	4600	
(Accum Units)	4680	4940	
Japan Smaller Cos	1582	1673	
(Accum Units)	1593	1684	
Managed Growth	2750	2900	1.86
Managed Income	2640	3080	d4.3
Midland	6420	6790	3.28
(Accum Units)	2225	2357	3.28
Pension Ex	10483	10756	4.36
Recovery	4780	5090	d2.72
(Accum Units)	8190	8660	d2.72
Second General	7480	7890	d3.89
(Accum Units)	2023	2140	d3.89
Smaller Cos	7520	7950	3.09
(Accum Units)	1540	1629	3.09
Treasury	2511	2515	d6.64
Trustee	4300	4550	4.8
(Accum Units)	1825	1935	4.8
Martin Currie Unit Trusts Ltd			
20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2ES			
Tel: 0131 229 5252, Dealing 0131 479 4845			
Intl Income	8054	8550	d3.98
European (z)	1061	1126	0.49
Income	8086	8586	4.27
Nth American (z)	9385	9968	d0.27
Far East (z)	1856	1970	d0.37
Japan	6624	7032	
Emerging Markets	9175	9849	
Intl Growth	1326	1408	0.80
UK Growth	1213	1288	2.45
Asian Opportunities	3990	4267	d0.29
UK Smaller Cos	6251	6647	1.01
Global Growth PEP	6249	6633	1.22
Newton Fund Managers Ltd			
71 Queen Victoria St, London EC4 4DR			
Clients 0500 550000 Broker 0500 660000			
Dealing 0500 440000			
American	5456	5814	0.00
American Acc	5506	5859	0.00
Bridge	9739	10354	2.10
Cash Acc	8837	8837	5.47
Cash Income	5029	5029	5.47
Distributor	10005	10643	d3.02
European	5661	6022	d0.00
Foundation	10708	11391	2.76
General	21756	23144	d1.47
Global	38683	41130	0.00
Growth	14198	15102	2.47
Growth Acc	14389	15307	2.47
Higher Income Inc	3044	3238	4.91
Higher Income Acc	3640	3872	4.91
Income	25608	27242	d3.53
International Bond	12334	13067	d5.81
Intrepid	14539	15144	1.63
Japan	2839	3084	0.00
Oriental Acc	18933	19013	0.72
Oriental Income	16430	17457	0.72
Personal Intl Gwth	3749	3989	0.00
Northern Rock Unit Trusts Ltd			
Bulman House, Regent Centre, Gosforth Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3HQ			
Telephone: (0191) 285 3555			
Rock Managed	1124	1189	2.47
Northern Rock High Income	4502	4870	d7.38
Pembroke Administration Ltd			
37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH			
Telephone & Dealing: 0171 813 2244			
Pembroke Growth	24445	26105	1.30
Pembroke World Acc	8539	9084	0.64
Pembroke Balanced	21252	22586	3.14
Pembroke Ex Income	12814	13560	4.73
Perpetual Unit Trust Mngmt Ltd			
Perpetual Hse			
Henley on Thames 01491 417000			
International Gwth Inc	70231	75525	0.36
International Gwth Acc	70506	75320	0.36
Income	42102	45029	3.33
W'wide Recovery Inc	46749	49998	0.49
W'wide Recovery Acc	46825	50081	0.49
American Growth Inc	31812	33947	0.01
American Growth Acc	31812	33947	0.01
European Gwth Inc	18116	19323	0.12
European Gwth Acc	18181	19390	0.12
Intl Emerging Cos Inc	30407	32521	d0.01
Intl Emerging Cos Acc	30425	32541	0.01
Far Eastern Growth Inc	31823	33922	0.74
Far Eastern Growth Acc	31738	33845	0.74
UK Growth Inc	11131	11927	2.73
UK Growth Acc	11878	12809	2.73
High Income	10949	11711	d3.88
Japanese Gwth Inc	22206	23704	0.41
Japanese Gwth Acc	22206	23704	0.41
PEP Growth	14730	15739	0.81
PEP Bond	5146	5382	7.84
Asian Smlr Mkts Inc	14339	15330	0.24
Asian Smlr Mkts Acc	14867	15886	0.24
American Smaller Cos Inc	20846	22296	0.01
American Smlr Cos Acc	20846	22296	0.01
Global Bond	5649	5848	4.90
UK Smaller Cos Inc	11001	11786	d1.36
UK Smaller Cos Acc	11722	12537	1.36
Money Acc	5441	5441	5.75
Latin American Gwth Inc	3692	3949	d0.70
Latin American Gwth Acc	3726	3986	0.70
Exempt Funds			
UK Exempt	37367	39665	2.79
Overseas Exempt	35148	35419	0.22
Prudential Unit Trusts Ltd			
51-59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex, IG1 2DL			
Managed Tst	4515	4782	1.71
Cash Haven Inc	10142	10191	d5.04
Cash Haven Acc	11775	11833	d5.04
Dist Inc	10525	10907	6.36
Dist Acc	11851	12279	6.36
Global Growth	10686	11261	1.40
Prudential Equity Inc	8680	9457	d4.62
Equity	85389	90816	2.40
Prudential European	27128	28112	d0.76
High Income	9250	9859	d5.43
Intl Gth	22672	24118	0.71
Intl Sm Co	9854	10489	0.84
Japanese	25085	25923	0.00
Nth Amer	24005	24875	d1.24
Pacific Mkts	12184	12826	0.67
Premier Inc	4842	5039	6.55
Sm Cos	11356	12080	1.67
Spec Sits	12418	13271	d2.67
UK Growth	14442	15364	2.32
Royal Life Fd Mngmt Ltd			
PO Box 34, Peterborough PE2 0UE			
Tel: 01733-390000			
RL Emerging Mkts	4777	5085	0.00
Save & Prosper Securities Ltd			
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770			
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB			
Amer Inc & Gwth	9036	9612	3.14
Amer Smlr Cos	1545	1644	
Asian Smaller Cos	4870	5181	d
Capital Portfolio	1515	1612	0.93
UK & Overseas	1972	2098	d1.48
Cash	1340	1340	d5.25
China Dragon	6485	6899	1.54
Commodity	1590	1682	
Eastern Discovery	1180	1255	d
Emerging Markets	3990	4245	d
Energy Inds	1623	1727	
European Gwth	2415	2569	0.29
Euro Inc & Gwth	9726	1035	1.11
Euro Smlr Cos	7677	8081	0.10
Exempt Income	1518	1548	3.32
Extra Income	5536	5736	6.12
Financial Secs	2750	2926	1.04
High Income	4866	4866	7.82
Gold & Exploration	1220	1298	
Growth	4056	4078	1.74
High Return	2487	2624	d3.62
High Yield	2557	2720	3.09
Income	1310	1394	3.74
Intl Bond	1672	1786	6.15
ITU	2389	2541	0.66
Japan Growth	1846	1963	
Japan Smaller	1981	2107	
Korea	5808	6177	
Latin America	4146	4413	d0.33
Masterfund	6890	6724	d0.90
Scotshares	3489	3712	d1.39
Scotyields	2755	2931	2.83
Select Intl	1586	1687	0.56
Smaller Cos Inc	2712	2885	3.51
SE Asia	5413	5759	0.03
Southern Africa	6018	6402	1.27
Special Situation	1556	1655	d1.98
UK Equity	2858	3042	2.19
UK Growth	7907	8412	1.53
UK Smlr Cos Gwth	6168	6562	1.22
U.S. Growth	2138	2274	
Univ Growth	1619	1722	0.47
Schroder Unit Trusts Ltd			
Schroder Hse, 33 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EJ			
Clients: 0800 526 535 Broker: 0800 526 540			
Retail Funds			
American	33540	35479	0.85
(Accum Units)	36982	39129	0.85
European Gwth	9199	9741	d0.78
(Accum Units)	9668	10238	d0.78
Euro Smlr Cos	11481	12194	d0.28
(Accum Units)	11636	12358	d0.28
Far Eastern Gwth	11558	12328	0.00
(Accum Units)	11781	12566	0.00
Gilt & Fixed Interest	5199	5478	7.48
(Accum Units)	7584	7990	7.48
Global Bond	5024	5191	d6.85
(Accum Units)	5886	6185	d6.85
Global Emer Mkts	6063	6467	0.00
(Accum Units)	6069	6473	0.00
Income	40180	42837	5.01
(Accum Units)	133047	141916	5.01
Japan Smlr Cos	48505	50298	d0.00
(Accum Units)	48602	51841	d0.00
Japan Enterprise	7184	7641	0.00
(Accum Units)	7184	7641	0.00
Pacific Gwth	18322	17410	0.50
(Accum Units)	16938	18024	0.50
Seoul	4848	5172	d0.00
(Accum Units)	4849	5172	d0.00
Smaller Cos	31628	33734	d0.77
(Accum Units)	37578	40083	d0.77
Tokyo	13424	14318	0.00
(Accum Units)	13559	14462	0.00
UK Enterprise	32603	34776	d2.27
(Accum Units)	40289	42975	d2.27
UK Equity	29243	31192	d2.66
(Accum Units)	59121	63063	d2.66
US Smlr Cos	23151	24694	0.00
(Accum Units)	23151	24694	0.00
Portfolio	9458	10088	2.00
(Accum Units)	10441	11136	2.00
Institutional Funds			
European	28290	30382	2.03
(Accum Units)	32905	34139	2.03
Euro Smlr Cos	3807	3959	d1.26
(Accum Units)	4095	4258	d1.26
Global Equity Inc	9349	9736	1.01
(Accum Units)	9870	10281	1.01
Japan Smlr Cos	4112	4283	d0.11
(Accum Units)	4162	4334	d0.11
Mngd Balanced	22377	23309	3.18
(Accum Units)	26091	27177	3.18
Overseas Equity	22661	23605	d1.28
(Accum Units)	23271	24761	d1.28
O'seas Smlr Cos	15525	16171	0.91
(Accum Units)	16359	17041	0.91
Pacific	29001	30209	1.34
(Accum Units)	32151	33490	1.34
Recovery	23421	24733	2.94
(Accum Units)	257671	268407	2.94
UK Index	17910	18656	d3.49
(Accum Units)	22832	23784	d3.49
UK Small Cos	14376	14974	2.37
(Accum Units)	15781	16438	2.37
US Smlr Cos	6720	7000	0.48
(Accum Units)	6882	7169	0.48
Singer & Friedlander Inv Funds Ltd			
21 New Street, London, EC2M 4HR			
Tel: 0171 867 8777, Dealing: 0171 626 6226			
American Growth	12755	12755	
Aztec	7112	7112	
European	17023	17023	
Global Bond	9061	9061	8.27
Samurai	6399	6399	
Sterling Reserve	10012	10012	d4.79
Tai Pan	10988	10988	
UK Growth	10998	10998	2.37
UK Emerging Leaders	11631	11631	2.27
Preferred Income	10754	10754	d4.32
UK Equity Income	10979	10979	d4.89
Investment Trust	11606	11606	0.93
Singer & Friedlander Unit Mgrs Ltd			
European Trust	9053	9633	0.92
Far Eastern Tst	7349	7818	0.00
Global Growth PEP	7815	8312	1.16
Investment Trust PEP	5663	6030	[illegible]
Preferred Income	1035	1075	d5.61
Smaller Cos	2686	2857	d1.65
Standard Life Unit Trusts			
PO Box 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 5RG 0800393777			
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd			
Global Advantage Inc	4656	4825	1.46
Global Advantage Acc	5046	5071	1.46
Income Advantage Inc	3462	3473	[illegible]
Income Advantage Acc	4073	4083	[illegible]
Premier Income Inc	4634	5089	d7.52
Pacific Basin	4761	5053	[illegible]
Japan Acc	2864	3043	.
European Acc	6140	6524	[illegible]
Stewart Ivory Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd			
45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh EH2 4HW			
Dealing & Enquiries: 0131 226 3271			
American	5307	5629	.
(Accum Units)	6262	6642	.
Britain	12878	13625	2.87
(Accum Units)	24636	26065	2.87
Emerging Markets	1671	1780	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	1683	1793	[illegible]
Euro Smaller Co	6779	7229	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	7606	8101	[illegible]
Japan	1448	1538	.
(Accum Units)	1460	1550	.
New Pacific	4476	4767	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	4816	5129	[illegible]
Investment Tst	2626	2784	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	3025	3207	[illegible]
Mngd Equity	2058	2177	[illegible]
Mngd Equity Acc	2254	2459	[illegible]
Mngd Cash	9540	9540	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	1442	1442	[illegible]
Sun Life Trust Mngmt Ltd			
PO Box 1810, Dept RPD, Bristol BS99 5SN			
Enq: 0171-606 4044 Dealings: 0171-606 6010			
Amer Growth Acc	8986	9536	[illegible]
Cap Protector Inc	4649	4945	[illegible]
Cap Protector Acc	5968	6349	[illegible]
Distribution Inc	2641	2659	[illegible]
Distribution Acc	2788	2966	[illegible]
Emerging Markets Acc	2231	2373	[illegible]
Euro Growth Acc	10690	[illegible]	[illegible]
Far East Gwth Acc	16284	17327	[illegible]
Japan Growth Acc	11362	12057	[illegible]
Mngd Extra Income Inc	3450	3659	[illegible]
Mngd Extra Income Acc	4354	4617	[illegible]
Mngd Growth Acc	11016	11703	[illegible]
Mngd High Yield Inc	8663	9215	[illegible]
Mngd High Yield Acc	11740	12489	[illegible]
Mngd Inc & Gth Inc	8329	8971	[illegible]
Mngd Inc & Gth Acc	10633	11312	[illegible]
Discretionary Portfolio	5938	6312	[illegible]
Pacific Growth Portfolio	5426	5772	[illegible]
UK Growth Acc	9079	9659	[illegible]
UK Income Inc	5751	6118	[illegible]
UK Income Acc	8338	9609	[illegible]
UK Smaller Cos	4158	4423	[illegible]
Thornton Unit Managers Ltd			
Swan House, 33 Queen Street, London EC4A 1AX			
Tel: 0171-246 3000, Dealing: 0171 246 3001			
Dresdner Europe Bd	4405	4583	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	7050	7342	[illegible]
European	34104	35710	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	34769	36477	[illegible]
Exempt	64634	67582	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	225050	235323	[illegible]
Global Emerging Mkts	8927	9347	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	9773	10232	[illegible]
Japan Tst	8245	9633	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	8245	9633	[illegible]
Nth Amer Gwth	29406	30791	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	37518	39762	[illegible]
Oriental Income	4892	5122	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	6773	7089	[illegible]
Preference	12925	13533	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	76013	79599	[illegible]
Tiger	21122	22586	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	22696	24226	[illegible]
UK Gwth	64678	67722	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	148962	155951	[illegible]
UK High Yield	13954	[illegible]	[illegible]
(Accum Units)	37895	39681	[illegible]

Key

d ex dividend
e exit charge when units sold
formerly offer
formerly bid
x Non SIB recognised fund

Copies of the most recent manager's report and scheme particulars are available from fund managers free on request

A more extensive List of Unit Trusts and Managed Funds ranked by performance & by each sector and including offer prices is published in Saturday's edition of the Independent.

market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3741.5 -1.7

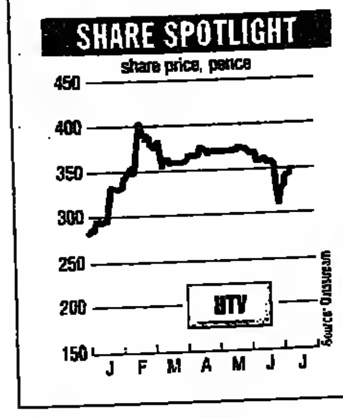
FT-SE 250
4339.5 -27.7

FT-SE 350
1881.5 -3.3

SEAQ VOLUME
598.3m shares,
32,492 bargains

Gilts Index
92.66 -0.03

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



The bid that never was puts sparkle into drink sector

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Once again the expected meltdown was kept on ice as leading shares ignored Friday's New York crash. Second-liners, however, displayed rather less aplomb with wide-spread falls.

With trading remaining thin the stock market presented a rather artificial appearance, often giving the impression it was merely ticking over awaiting the end of the sultry days of summer.

Much of the day's action revolved around the takeover bid that never was. For months rumours have swirled that Grand Metropolitan was destined to be the subject of corporate action. High on the list of possibilities was a break-up bid. The weekend revelation that Guinness had looked at Grand Met was enough to send the food and drink group's shares ahead 18p to 440p. By Grand Met standards it was a good display as the shares have been persistently weak performers.

Guinness ended 4p higher at 474p after touching 479p. Although the stories of a bid for Grand Met turned out to be wide of the mark they did at least demonstrate that the brewing and spirits giant was acutely aware of its slumbering shares and was casting around for ways to improve its image.

Other spirit shares stirred modestly. **Allied Domecq** managed an early 7p gain but settled little changed at 448p. **Burn Stewart**, a tiddler, edged ahead 2p to 101p. **Macallan Glenlivet**, which has suffered the indignity of a bid below its market price, firmed to 158p; **Highland Distilleries**, the predator with 51 per cent of the capital, also edged ahead. MacGlen is expected to comment on the bid this week.

If nothing else the Guinness affair is seen as demonstrating that further corporate action is likely in the world spirit market which is dominated by UK groups.

Grand Met has said it looked at demerging its food and spirit operations but decided it would not improve shareholder value. Allied is widely expected to opt for splitting its retailing and spirit businesses into stand-alone operations. Glenmorangie, unchanged at 765p, is adopting a higher profile and once its ruling family relinquishes control the malt whisky group would be open to a bid.

Glaxo Wellcome had a volatile session, closing down 8p at 873p after 857p. It is appealing against a surprise US court decision which could open the floodgates to copies of its best-selling ulcer drug Zantac, which has sales of £2.2bn.

But on the ill-wind philosophy **Halliday Chemicals**, set to produce a generic form of Zantac in the US, gained 11p to 144p.

Bank of Scotland edged forward 3p to 244p as marketing got under way for the sale of most of Standard Life's stake. The insurance group is selling around 29 per cent, retaining 2.5 per cent.

Reuters, the information group, was firm at 772p ahead of an Internet seminar and **Marks & Spencer** rose 2p to 490p, a 12-month high, ahead of an expected encouraging trading statement at tomorrow's AGM. **Allders** put on 13p to 211p: it is planning to hand out some of the £160m windfall from the sale of its duty-free business. A share buy-back or more shareholder-friendly special dividend is expected.

Lucas Industries dropped 9p to 218p on stories its proposed partner, Varity, the US car parts group, could attract a bid before the merger can be consummated.

Orange, off 3.5p, found a new 204p low and utilities were under pressure on the continuing debate about a windfall tax.

The expectation of takeover action among media players continued to create interest. **HTV** remained on the recovery road, up 7p at 350p; **Yorkshire** rose 15p to 1,255p.

Eurocopy, the photocopier group, tumbled 16p to 74p as a trust linked to chairman Cyril Gay placed nearly 10 million shares with institutions. The pending departure of chief executive Claes Hultman continued to worry **Eurotherm**, off 24p at 520p.

Healthcall tumbled 29.5p to 105.5p following a profit warning and **Shield Diagnostics**' profit standstill and disappointment it could not provide more details of its trials pushed the shares 19p down to 141p; **Systems Integrated Research**, floated at 115p in April, tumbled 27p to 88p as it forecast a loss approaching £400,000. The dull computer sector left **MM Computing** off 23p at 465p and **Micro Focus** 10p at 790p.

Cirqual, the aluminium specialist, made the expected rousing debut, closing at 138p against a 122p placing. **Pordum**, a food delivery service, ended at 3.5p against a 3p placing.

TAKING STOCK

❒Ennemix, the little aggregates group, has attracted another industry giant. RMC has emerged as the mystery buyer, picking up 1.1 per cent of the capital at 50p a share through James Capel. It is seeking more stock for "strategic reasons" but has no plans to bid.

Its action follows a 46p agreed offer from French group Lafarge and an unsuccessful bid from Redland earlier this year. With Lafarge and Redland each sitting on 41 per cent of the aggregates tiddler RMC will have difficulty putting together a worthwhile stake

❒Osborne & Little, the fabrics group, jumped 42p to a 12 month high of 710p. The shares have climbed 80p since it took on the worldwide distribution of Liberty's furnishing fabrics and wallpapers on Friday.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. ‡ AIM Stock Source: FT Information

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UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	20	Electricity Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	41

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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000	Stock	Vol'000
Vodafone	2170000	British Gas	880000	Marks & Spencer	650000	Shell Transport	530000
Hanson	1320000	Glaxo Wellcome	870000	BP	640000	Cable & Wire	520000
ASDA Group	1230000	Smkl Beecham	870000	Scottish Power	590000	National Power	510000
Prudential	980000	Rolls Royce	750000	BT	570000	BAT Inds	460000
Grand Met	940000	General Elect	720000	British Steel	570000	Cookson	450000

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 3723.6 down 18.6	11.00 3752.1 up 8.9	14.00 3731.3 down 11.9
09.00 3734.1 down 9.1	12.00 3741.2 down 2.0	15.00 3735.3 down 7.9
10.00 3738.8 down 4.4	13.00 3735.5 down 7.7	16.00 3738.4 down 4.8
		Close 3741.5 down 1.7

Share price tables (columns: 1996 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, Yld, P/E, Index Code), by sector:

Alcoholic Beverages
[illegible]

Banks, Merchant
[illegible]

Banks, Retail
[illegible]

Breweries, Pubs & Rest
[illegible]

Building/Construction
[illegible]

Building Materials
[illegible]

Chemicals
[illegible]

Distributors
[illegible]

Diversified Industrials
[illegible]

Electricity
[illegible]

Electronics
[illegible]

Engineering
[illegible]

Engineering Vehicles
[illegible]

Extractive Industries
[illegible]

Food Manufacturers
[illegible]

Gas Distribution
[illegible]

Health Care
[illegible]

Household Goods
[illegible]

Insurance
[illegible]

Internationals
[illegible]

Investment Companies
[illegible]

Investment Trusts
[illegible]

Leisure & Hotels
[illegible]

Life Assurance
[illegible]

Media
[illegible]

Oil Exploration
[illegible]

Oil, Integrated
[illegible]

Other Financial
[illegible]

Pharmaceuticals
[illegible]

Printing & Paper
[illegible]

Property
[illegible]

Retailers, Food
[illegible]

Retailers, General
[illegible]

Support Services
[illegible]

Telecommunications
[illegible]

Textiles & Apparel
[illegible]

Transport
[illegible]

Water
[illegible]

Rights Issues
[illegible]

Recent Issues
[illegible]

Government Securities

Index-linked
[illegible]

Undated
[illegible]

Shorts
[illegible]

Mediums
[illegible]

Longs
[illegible]

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Khassah to take shine off Dazzle

Racing

GREG WOOD

The winning post at the end of the July Course will be the most obvious marker at Newmarket today, but by no means the only one. For many racegoers, there will be a mental milestone too, placed at the point where, with four Classics and Royal Ascot already behind, the first half of a Flat season has finished and the second can begin.

The July meeting at Headquarters brings more than just a change of mood. The cast list too will reflect the advancing campaign, as horses which have been with us since April start to drop away, and the Pattern cycle for two-year-olds is set in motion. From now on, the winners of good juvenile events will have two prices – the one they started at and the derisory one on offer for the 1997 Guineas, all of nine months distant. Smart punters, as ever, will back them at the former and ignore the latter.

Indeed, this year the process has started even in advance of the Cherry Hinton Stakes, today's valuable contest for two-year-old fillies, with Ladbrokes quoting Dazzle, who is expected to start favourite today, at 20-1 for next year's 1,000 Guineas. Khassah, perhaps her most serious opponent today, is 25-1 for the same Classic.

For Khassah's trainer, John Gosden, the second half of the season cannot start too soon. The opening months of the campaign have generally been miserable ones for Gosden, but when Shantou ran third in the Derby it announced that some form was returning to his string, and his strike-rate over the last fortnight has been almost 25 per cent.

Khassah (next best 3.05) should improve Gosden's percentage still further today, for while Dazzle may have won Royal Ascot's Windsor Castle Stakes on her racecourse debut, it was hardly the strongest juvenile event of the week and Khassah's successful introduction at the Heath meeting was every bit as impressive. The filly looked outstanding both in the paddock and on the way to post, and even more so on the way back as she comfortably put two lengths between herself and her field. With three unbeaten runners in today's race (Peter Chapple-Hyam's Ocean Ridge is the other) this could be a very significant contest, and Khassah should emerge with her record intact.

Chapple-Hyam chose the maiden which opens today's card to introduce Colonel Collins three years ago, while last year the finish was fought out by Alhaarth and Mark Of Esteem. Although the big Newmarket yards are not represented today, this should again be a maiden worthy of the closest scrutiny, even if it is a non-starter for betting purposes.

Whatever the fate of Chapple-Hyam's debutant, Equal Rights, in this race, the Manton trainer stands every chance of collecting the card's most valuable event, the Princess of Wales's Stakes. While the purse is not quite the £20m which might seem appropriate, ASTOR PLACE (nap 3.40) can still add a worthwhile sum to his handler's prize-money total and strike a blow for the Classic generation in the process.

Though he has won just a single, very weak, race so far this season, Astor Place ran much better in the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) than his eighth placing might suggest. In receipt of almost a stone from the likely market leaders, Bequeath and Singspiel, his chance is far stronger than his odds might indicate.

A maximum field of 20 will go to post for the one-mile handicap, but this is perhaps not so competitive a race as it appears and may take rather less solving than the nine-runner rated handicap later on the card. Ninia, Saifan, Crown Court and Charlie Chang are the ones for the short-list, with Ninia (2.35), now reunited with Jason Weaver, the probable winner. The rated handicap is far more problematic, and Galine is little more than a grope in the dark.

Farrell injured as mount collapses

Anthea Farrell, the leading amateur rider and former partner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Jodami suffered head and hip injuries yesterday when a horse she was riding at the Great Yorkshire Show collapsed and died.

Farrell, daughter of Jodami's trainer, Peter Beaumont, was reported to be in a comfortable condition in Harrogate General Hospital last night.

Farrell suffered her injuries as she was riding the 12-year-old chaser Choctaw. "The horse collapsed on top of her," a spokesman at the showground said. "He had a heart attack or suffered a brain haemorrhage and died a few minutes later."

Ray Cochrane, out of action since suffering a dislocated shoulder in a fall at Tahy racecourse in Sweden on 4 June, will make his return to race-riding at York on Friday.

Having been ruled out of the Derby meeting, Cochrane had initially hoped to make his comeback as soon as Royal Ascot. But the jockey's injury took longer than expected to heal, and he decided last week to sit out the Eclipse meeting.

■ France's Anabaa was well backed yesterday for Thursday's July Cup and is now 3-1 from 4-1 with William Hill who eased Pivotal from 6-4 to 7-4.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Crown Court (Newmarket 2.35)
NB: Commander Glen (Pontefract 2.20)

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

NEWMARKET

2.05: REHEARSAL, who was outpaced before staying on to finish 7½ lengths third to Juwwi and Flaming West in a six furlongs maiden at Newbury on his debut, will be better for the experience and should appreciate the extra furlong today. Zugudi is another with the benefit of racecourse experience in a field which is packed with interesting newcomers.

❑❑❑

2.35: CROWN COURT, who possibly found the ground too firm when just over three lengths third to Fahim and Shebab over a mile and 100 yards at Beverley, enters handicaps on a lenient mark. Tawafij may be the chief danger.

3.05: DAZZLE, who beat last Friday's Sandown winner Vax Star by 2½ lengths on her debut in a stakes race over five furlongs at Royal Ascot, will be suited by a sixth furlong today. **Dame Laura**, a length second to Dance Parade in the Group Three Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot over five furlongs, should also stay. He looks the danger.

3.40: BEQUEATH, who was most impressive when winning the Listed Fred Archer Stakes by four lengths from Commoner over today's course and distance last time on only his fourth outing, looks a smart performer in the making. Singspiel, who ran Swain to a neck in the Group One Coronation Cup at Epsom on Derby day, is the obvious danger.

❑❑❑

4.10: DASHING BLUE, who was hampered by a faller when finishing a highly creditable two lengths seventh to Mallia in the William Hill Trophy Handicap over six furlongs at York, may turn the tables on the short-head second at York, **Pleading**, on 5lb better terms.

NEWMARKET

HYPERION

2.05 Rehearsal
2.35 Crown Court
3.05 Dazzle (nb)
3.40 Bequeath
4.10 Dashing Blue
4.45 Aunty Jane
5.15 Spender

GOING: Good (watering).
STALLS: 1m 2f – stands' side; rest - far side.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
■ Right-hand course with 1m straight.
■ Course is SW of town on A1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations. **ADMISSION:** Club £20 (16 to 25-year-olds £8); Grandstand & Paddock £10 (16 to 25-year-olds £5); Family Enclosure £3. **CAR PARK:** Members £1; remainder free.

SIS

■ **LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS:** H Cecil — 61 winners from 266 runners gives a success ratio of 22.7% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £7.59; J Gosden — 52 winners, 518 runners, 14.9%, -£71.60; R Hannon — 44 winners, 544 runners, 8.1%, -£235.75; B Hills — 34 winners, 276 runners, 12.3%, -£108.64.
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** Pat Eddery — 115 winners, 496 rides, 23.2%, +£1.10; L Dettori — 75 winners, 519 rides, 14.5%, -£128.64; W Carson — 51 winners, 471 rides, 10.8%, -£75.37; T Quinn — 35 winners, 329 rides, 10.6%, -£119.03.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Charlie Chang (2.35), White Emir (4.10).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Times Of Times (5.15) won at Yarmouth on Wednesday; Rich Glow (5.15) won at Ayr on Thursday.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Royal Mark (4.10) has been sent 200 miles by J W Watts from Richmond, N Yorks; Tawafij (2.35) sent 200 miles by M Hammond from Coverham, N Yorks; Ninia (2.35) & Unconditional Love (4.45) sent 200 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, N Yorks; Pageboy (5.15) sent 200 miles by P Haslam from Middleham, N Yorks.

2.05 STRUTT & PARKER MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £7,000 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £5,481 C4

1 BAHHARE (USA) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9 0 — W Carson 9
2 EQUAL RIGHTS (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9 0 — J Reid 2
3 0 GENEROUS GIFT (48) (BF) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9 0 — R Hughes 7
4 0 MARADI (10) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) D Morley 9 0 — R Hills 8
5 MUSICAL DANCER (USA) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9 0 — M J Kinane 6
6 PENLOP (HE Lhendup Dorji) B Meehan 9 0 — M Tebbutt 3
7 3 REHEARSAL (12) (R M Cyzer) C Cyzer 9 0 — M Roberts 10
8 ROYAL AMARETTO (The Harlequin Partnership) B Meehan 9 0 — B Doyle 5
9 THE FLY (Mrs J M Corbett) B Hills 9 0 — Pat Eddery 11
10 4 ZUGUDI (24) (Sheik Ahmad Yousuf Al Sabah) B Hanbury 9 0 — M Rimmer 1
11 MRS MINIVER (USA) (L M A Hurley) P Kelleway 8 9 — K Fallon 4
– 11 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Bahhare, 7-2 Equal Rights, 9-2 The Fly, 5-1 Rehearsal, 6-1 Musical Dancer, 12-1 Mrs Miniver, 16-1 Penlop, 20-1 others
1995: Alhaarth 2 9 0 W Carson 7-2 (W R Hern) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE
BAHHARE (by Woodman) is probably above average because he is a half-brother to Bahri and the dam is out of a Queen Mary winner. Bahhare looks his owner's number one ahead of Maradi, who may need a bit more time. Equal Rights looks one of the better potential dangers. He is by Royal Academy out of an Australian Grade One winner and he is a half-brother to a Graded winner in Australasia. Musical Dancer is a 120,000-dollar yearling half-brother to a winner in the USA. The dam is a half sister to a champion older mare, Princess Rooney. Rehearsal is probably best of the four with form. He, like the Chapple-Hyam newcomer, is by Royal Academy and he is going to like the seven furlongs judged on his Newbury debut effort (6f) when he was third to Juwwi. He was beaten more than seven lengths, but was backward and green. Selection: BAHHARE

2.35 H & K COMMISSIONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m Penalty Value £8,415 C4

1 03-0006 TOUJOURS RIVIERA (6) (CD) (James Furlong) J Pearce 6 10 0 — G Bardwell 8
2 30-0104 NINIA (USA) (9) (D) (Mrs D R Schreiber) M Johnston 4 9 13 — J Weaver 9
3 003146 SAIFAN (18) (CD) (Mrs L Brook) D Morris 7 9 11 — A Eddery (7) 14 B
4 20-0400 MO-ADDAB (20) (C) (D) (S J Hammond) A Stewart 8 9 11 — M Roberts 16
5 00-0100 NORDINEX (69) (CD) (R J Arculli) R Armstrong 4 9 10 — R Price 1
6 00-0604 TAWAFIJ (USA) (10) (Stephen Laidlaw) M Hammond 7 9 9 — J Fortune 7
7 5062-00 AEROKING (USA) (71) (The PBT Group) G Harwood 5 9 9 — A Clark 8
8 0-02003 SAMBA SHARPLY (12) (D) (Miss V R Jones) A Hide 5 9 9 — W Woods 2 B
9 622-00 MOSCOW MIST (43) (Marthyr Motor Auctions) Lady Herries 5 9 4 — T Sprake 17
10 23-3354 REINHARDT (13) (BF) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3 9 2 — J Reid 13
11 002045 EMILY-MOU (6) (CD) (A S Reid) M Ryan 4 9 1 — B Doyle 18
12 200-060 DEEVEE (30) (CD) (D Turner) C J Benstead 7 9 0 — P Robinson 19
13 5410 A CHEF TOO FAR (19) (Hon Mervyn Greenway) R Rowe 3 9 0 — W Carson 12
14 0324-20 YOXALL LODGE (5) (Miss Ann Featherstone) H Collingridge 6 8 12 — M Rimmer 15
15 01-445 CHARLIE CHANG (46) (D) (BF) (Jim Horgan) R Hannon 3 8 11 — M J Kinane 5 B
16 30015-0 BOLD HABIT (58) (D) (Arthur Old) J Pearce 11 8 9 — S Gaillard (7) 20
17 663 CROWN COURT (33) (Lord De La Warr & Mr M K-Dineen) L Cumani 3 8 9 — Pat Eddery 3
18 300545 KARINSKA (9) (D) (Geoff Whiting) M Chapman 6 8 8 — D R McCabe 4
19 116335 FORT KNOX (11) (CD) (Miss C Markowski) R M Flower 5 8 6 — D Biggs 10 B
20 30-0033 SUPER HIGH (17) (D) (Mrs J M Khan) P Howling 4 8 6 — F Norton 11 B
– 20 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Crown Court, 8-1 Charlie Chang, Tawafij, 10-1 Deevee, Mo-Addab, 12-1 Saifan, Toujours Riviera, 14-1 A Chef Too Far, Ninia, 16-1 Moscow Mist, Reinhardt, Samba Sharply, 20-1 others
1995: Sarmah 5 8 12 N Connorton 7-2 (D Nicholls) 15 ran

FORM GUIDE
CROWN COURT is a big, 80,000-dollar son of Chief's Crown and and he has shown steady improvement in maidens, latterly when third in a six-runner Beverley contest won by Fahim. The fourth, Desert Frolic, is an improver, but he won in good style last Thursday off a mark of 70 and so Crown Court looks reasonably treated, at least, off the same rating. The Beverley runner-up, Shehab, was a winner next time, too. Tawafij has changed stables this season, joining Michael Hammond from Tom Dyer. A change of scenery often results in improvement and Tawafij is interesting off today's handicap mark bearing in mind that he was given a lot to do when a two and a half lengths' fourth to Almuhimm at Newcastle (7f) last time. That is a race that Tawafij has won twice previously. The question-mark concerns the trip of a mile because Tawafij has been something of a seven-furlong specialist. But he is invariably held up for a turn of foot and could make a telling run at the leaders. Nordinex was conceding 6lb to Concer Un when third to that horse in the Geoffrey Hamlyn Handicap over the Jubilee mile at Kempton last September and that form has merit. Ninia is in good heart judged on her Doncaster third (relegated to fourth) to New Century nine days ago, while Charlie Chang is hard to assess but shaped like a progressive sort on his first two starts this year and is now tried in blinkers. Selection: CROWN COURT

3.05 HILLSDOWN CHERRY HINTON STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 2) £35,000 2YO fillies 6f Pen Value £22,792 C4

1 114 CONNEMARA (20) (D) (A Halouret) C Dwyer 8 9 — J Weaver 1
2 2122 DAME LAURA (20) (C) (A J Morrison) P Cole 8 9 — T Quinn 8
3 1 DAZZLE (18) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8 9 — K Fallon 3
4 513 EYE SHADOW (10) (Mrs O E Bledisloe) B Meehan 8 9 — M J Kinane 4
5 1 KHASSAH (17) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Gosden 8 9 — W Carson 7
6 10 LYCILITY (20) (D) (Saeed Manana) C Brittain 8 9 — B Doyle 6
7 1 OCEAN RIDGE (USA) (26) (D) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 9 — J Reid 2
8 21 RICH IN LOVE (20) (D) (R M Cyzer) C Cyzer 8 9 — M Roberts 9
9 2 WELL WARNED (17) (K Abdullah) B Hills 8 9 — Pat Eddery 6
– 9 declared –

INDEPENDENT RATINGS: 118 EYE SHADOW, 108 Dazzle, 107 Dame Laura, 105 Connemara, 91 Ocean Ridge, 90 Lycility, 82 Rich In Love, — Khassah, Well Warned
BETTING: 3-1 Dazzle, 5-1 Dame Laura, Khassah, Ocean Ridge, 6-1 Well Warned, 7-1 Connemara, 8-1 others
1995: Applaud 2 8 9 Pat Eddery 11-2 (D Loder) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE
There was no mention of the Cherry Hinton immediately after KHASSAH took the same Ascot maiden (unraced fillies) won by Bint Salsabil last year, but John Gosden did say that the daughter of Green Desert had been doing everything right and that the first time she had come off the bridle was when attempting to jump the path at Ascot (shades of Fletcherl). My feeling is that she could be smart bearing in mind that that the Ascot second, Well Warned, has also been given the Cherry Hinton route. Well Warned has a lovely pedigree, being by Warning out of a full sister to Zafonic's dam, but Khassah beat her nicely despite the greenness. Dazzle won the five-furlong Windsor Castle at Royal Ascot and the form has been bolstered by the next-time win by runner-up Vax Star at Sandown last Friday. Dazzle was the third newcomer to win the Windsor Castle in six the past six seasons and it is difficult to tell how the class of the race measures up. She got the allowances but was ridden at overweight by Kieren Fallon. So, with Vax Star winning on ground she may not have liked too much, the form could be decent. Ocean Ridge had colts behind her when landing the Kennett Maiden over the trip at Newbury and the form has been boosted by fifth-placed Mr Bombastique. Ocean Ridge won by four lengths despite taking a strong tug and did look extra useful. Rich In Love has needed her first two runs (winning at Ripon the second time) and is going to relish every yard of seven furlongs. Green so far, she could still be in with a shout. Dame Laura's experience after four runs could count for plenty and she is still on the upgrade judged on her Queen Mary second. Selection: KHASSAH

3.40 PRINCESS OF WALES'S STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 2) £50,000 added 1m 4f Pen Value £36,504 C4

1 0115-33 POSIDONAS (18) (D) (Athos Christodoulou) P Cole 4 9 7 — T Quinn 6
2 331-432 ANNUS MIRABILIS (FR) (18) (C) (Godolphin) Saeed bin Suroor 4 9 2 — J Reid 1
3 32-11 BEQUEATH (10) (CD) (K Abdullah) H Cecil 4 9 2 — Pat Eddery 5
4 0-00534 LEAR WHITE (USA) (9) (General Horse Advertising SRL) P Kelleway 5 9 2 — K Fallon 2
5 20-4214 MIDNIGHT LEGEND (10) (C) (D) (Umm Qarn Racing) L Cumani 5 9 2 — J Weaver 9
6 15-4340 PUNISHMENT (18) (D) (A J Richards) C Brittain 5 9 2 — B Doyle 4
7 2221-12 SINGSPIEL (31) (D) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 4 9 2 — M J Kinane 3
8 334-206 WAYNE COUNTY (30) (D) (Mrs A Naughton) R Akehurst 6 9 2 — S Sanders 7
9 415-301 ASTOR PLACE (17) (C) (D) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3 8 3 — W Carson 8
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Singspiel, 9-4 Bequeath, 9-2 Annus Mirabilis, 10-1 Astor Place, 14-1 Lear White, Midnight Legend, Posidonas, 25-1 Punishment, 40-1 Wayne County
1995: Beauchamp Hero 5 9 5 J Reid 6-1 (J Dunlop) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE
BEQUEATH could not have been more impressive when winning in Listed company here last time and it will be perplexing if third-placed Midnight Legend is able to reverse the form, even this admirable sort reopposes on 3lb better terms. There was five lengths between them, but Bequeath was eased close home. Henry Cecil's son of Rainbow Quest has had little racing and looks better every time. He came back from an 11-month break when taking a three-runner Beverley maiden in June and yet even the evidence of that win was enough to convince watchers that he is a bit special. Singspiel has the Group-race form in the bank and he ran extremely well in defeat in the Grand Prix De Paris, Eclipse and Great Voltigeur last season. He has returned this year in the same smart form and although he mixes it with almost equal effect over ten and 12 furlongs, Bequeath may be the one who is the most certain to relish the uphill final furlong. Posidonas gives them both 5lb which would seem a tall order, while Annus Mirabilis, who was ahead of him plus Lear White and Punishment in the Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot, might not be quite so effective now that he has lost that vital bit of freshness. He tends to wander under pressure. Wayne County was beaten only a short-head by Spout in the John Porter but is a horse with a few miles on the clock now and he has been run over on his latest two starts, including behind Bal Harbour who has been taken out of this. Astor Place beat Acharne on Heath day at Ascot in a race run at a false gallop. He represents the classic generation and will all the question-marks existing over much of the three-year-old form (although I'm sure Shaamit is a crackerjack!), he still has much to prove. Selection: BEQUEATH

4.10 TYPHOO TEA RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £12,500 added 3YO 6f Penalty Value £8,184 C4

1 141-130 DASHING BLUE (24) (D) (Mrs Duncan Allen) I Balding 9 7 — Martin Dwyer (5) 6
2 04-112 PLEADING (24) (D) (Simon Broke) H Candy 8 13 — C Rutter 3
3 321 DUEL AT DAWN (24) (D) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8 11 — M J Kinane 4
4 65356 LUCKY ARCHER (24) (W J Gredley) C Brittain 8 11 — B Doyle 6
5 120-520 ROYAL MARK (21) (C) (Lord Swaythling) J W Watts 8 10 — T Quinn 7
6 1-24123 WILDWOOD FLOWER (24) (D) (G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 8 8 — Dane O'Neill (3) 8
7 322-31 DARK DEED (USA) (35) (D) (K Abdullah) B Hills 8 8 — Pat Eddery 1
8 1-10241 GALINE (11) (CD) (S Fustok) W O'Gorman 8 8 — Emma O'Gorman 2
9 3-05545 WHITE EMIR (17) (The Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 8 7 — J F Egan 9 8
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Pleading, 9-2 Dark Deed, 5-1 Duel At Dawn, Wildwood Flower, 6-1 Galine, 13-2 Royal Mark, 7-1 Dashing Blue, 16-1 White Emir, 33-1 Lucky Archer
1995: Perryston View 3 8 10 M Birch 6-1 (P Calver) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE
Dashing Blue is running well and the colt's run last-time-out can be ignored because he was unlucky in running when seventh of 18 in Mallia's York handicap last time. Pleading and Wildwood Flower were second and third at York, but Dashing Blue can be fancied to run them close even if it is a bit off-putting that Dwyer, who goes to scale at less than 7st 7lb, will have so much "dead" weight in the saddle. Dashing Blue gave Dark Deed 5lb and a cosy two-length beating in a Ripon maiden last August and so the issue is far from clear-cut in Dark Deed's favour here despite the presence of Pat Eddery on her back. When Dark Deed beat DUEL AT DAWN by a length and a half in a Pontefract maiden (6f) a month ago, Barry Hills's filly was getting 5lb. This time, the difference is only 3lb and it would seem that Duel At Dawn has a bit more scope for improvement. Certainly, he was not given a hard time at Ripon once Dark Deed asserted and he had previously run third at Warwick (7f) to a filly I consider to be better than most people think, the John Bosley-trained Pusey Street Girl. Duel At Dawn now has a win under his belt courtesy of a Lingfield maiden and is the tentative choice for a difficult handicap. Wildwood Flower has bags of pace but is close to being in the handicapper's grip off a rating of 87. At least Dane O'Neill can take 3lb off. Galine is 9lb higher than when winning here last time (5f) but Pleading has a style of running which means she might be a step ahead. Selection: DUEL AT DAWN

4.45 HARTLEYS JAM RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £12,500 added 3YO fillies 7f Penalty Value £8,169

1 1340-32 UNCONDITIONAL LOVE (65) (Mrs H Conroy) M Johnston 9 0 — J Weaver 2
2 2124 AUNTY JANE (8) (D) (BF) (Paul H Locke) B Hills 8 13 — Pat Eddery 10
3 4-01345 FRIENDS CA (17) (D) (P B Adams) R Hannon 8 9 — J Reid 6
4 1-2462 MISS RIVIERA (17) (J L C Pearce) G Wragg 8 8 — M J Kinane 5
5 2202-16 ROSES IN THE SNOW (17) (G Howard-Spink) J Hills 8 5 — R Hills 4
6 1-01002 LILLI CLAIRE (18) (D) (C Leafe) A Foster 8 1 — T Sprake 1
7 414-035 OCEAN GROVE (28) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 0 — F Norton 8
8 3-42111 POETRY (17) (D) (Michael H Keogh) M Tompkins 8 0 — P Robinson 9
9 4-00312 HIPPY (5) (BF) (D Sieff) C Brittain 8 0 — P Doe (7) 7
10 0231- JEZYAH (USA) (280) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 8 0 — W Carson 3
– 10 declared –

Minimum weight 8st. True handicap weights: Hippy 7st 12lb, Jezyah 7st 12lb.
BETTING: 9-2 Aunty Jane, 5-1 Lilli Claire, Friends Ca, 11-2 Miss Riviera, 7-1 Unconditional Love, Poetry, 8-1 Roses In The Snow, 10-1 others
1995: Bouche Bee 3 8 3 L Dettori 13-8 (L Cumani) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE
AUNTY JANE was getting 5lb from the first two and 9lb from the other when "beating" horses rated 102, 100 and 105 in a four-runner Doncaster conditions event (1m) last time. Aunty Jane was thrown out for causing interference on the way to a half-length margin of victory. By common consent, she should have won turning the proverbial handsprings. With Aunty Jane currently rated 97, she could be handicapped with a fighting chance and she had four lengths in hand of Charlotte Corday when taking a Chester maiden in May. She was reportedly lame when pulled up in a Listed event at Epsom afterwards. Friends Ca won a valuable handicap at Chester in May and might have found the mile of the Fern Hill just beyond her at Ascot last time (she races freely). Lilli Claire is running well and Poetry is on a winning roll. The form shown in completing a hat-trick looks a shade suspect at this tougher level, but she still enters calculations along with Hippy. Selection: AUNTY JANE

5.15 NGK SPARK PLUGS SOHAM HANDICAP (CLASS D) £7,000 added 5f Penalty Value £5,208

1 256101 FRIENDLY BRAVE (11) (D) (God Partnership) Miss Gay Kelleway 6 9 10 — R Hughes 2
2 031602 SPENDER (10) (D) (The Entrepreneurs) P Harris 7 9 10 — Pat Eddery 4
3 0001-50 BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY (51) (CD) (Mrs Judy Hunt) P Howling 6 9 8 — S O Williams 8 B
4 160-001 TIMES OF TIMES (6) (D) (A S Reid) M Ryan 3 9 3 — A McCarthy (7) 7
5 438052 SHADOW JURY (4) (D) (Mrs Jeanne Chapman) D Chapman 6 8 12 — J Fortune 10 B
6 04-1265 PAGEBOY (171) (D) (Lord Scarsdale) P Haslam 7 8 12 — J Weaver 1 B
7 000031 RICH GLOW (5) (D) (M J Batesom) N Bycroft 5 8 12 (7ex) — K Fallon 6
8 0-50430 GONE SAVAGE (15) (D) (The Square Table) W Musson 8 8 9 — M J Kinane 3
9 035501 JOHN O'DREAMS (12) (D) (Peter A Brazier) Mrs A King 11 8 4 — M Roberts 11
10 034644 FEATHERSTONE LANE (4) (D) (D Parker) Miss L Siddall 5 8 1 — P Robinson 9 V
11 034033 HALF TONE (11) (D) (Mrs G M Temmerman) R M Flower 4 7 13 — N Varley (3) 3 B
– 11 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Rich Glow, 5-1 John O'Dreams, Shadow Jury, 7-1 Featherstone Lane, 8-1 Spender, Friendly Brave, Half Tone, 10-1 others
1995: Broadstairs Beauty 5 9 7 C Teague 11-2 (S R Bowring) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE
BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY rallied to win this corresponding race last year by three short-heads in a nail-biting blanket finish and is handicapped to run well again. He won at Ripon (5f) the time before in record time and he would have a great chance but for the slight doubt that exists that his form may have declined since he left Roy Bowring. Still, he looked perky enough in March when, on his final run for Bowring, he was fifth in a Newcastle handicap. It is, otherwise, an open handicap contested by well-known older sprinters. Pageboy can go well fresh and the tough topweights Friendly Brave and Spender have decent claims, while it is a brave man who is dogmatic that Rich Glow can win only at Ayr despite the fact that his four wins so far have all been achieved there. Selection: BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY

PONTEFRACT

HYPERION

2.20 Commander Glen 2.50 NOSTALGIC AIR (nap) 3.20 Puce 3.55 Formidable Liz 4.25 Dacha 5.00 How Could-I 5.30 Another Time

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best.
■ Left-hand, undulating course.
■ Course is 1m NW of town on A639. Pontefract (Monkhill) station (service from Leeds and Wakefield) 1m; Tanshelf station (service from Wakefield) adjoins course. **ADMISSION:** Club £12; Paddock £8; Silver Ring £3.50. **CAR PARK:** Third Ring, car with four occupants, £6, plus £2 at turnstiles; remainder free.

SIS **RACING CHANNEL**

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Prudent Pet (visored) (5.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Don't Drop Bombs (2.20) won at Yarmouth on Thursday.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Lady Bankes (5.30) has been sent 229 miles by W G M Turner from Corton Denham, Somerset; Cheveley Dancer (2.20) sent 201 miles by T J Naughton from Epsom, Surrey; Step Aloft (4.25) sent 177 miles by Lord Huntingdon from West Ilsley, Berks; Written Agreement (2.20) sent 173 miles by R Peacock from Chedislow, Wilts.

2.20 HYDE PROMOTIONS LADIES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £4,000 added 1m 2f

1 012502 COMMANDER GLEN (8) Mrs J Ramsden 4 11 7 — Miss A J Smith (7) 3 B
2 305006 CANARY FALCON (17) H Collingridge 5 10 11 — Miss J Allison 17
3 161253 GOLD BLADE (4) (D) (BF) J Pearce 7 10 10 — Mrs L Pearce 8
4 413404 RAINDEER QUEST (29) (C) J L Eyre 4 10 6 — Miss Diana Jones 4
5 0-05000 MEDIATE (22) A Hide 4 10 4 — Miss E Johnson Houghton 14 8
6 0/P0404 PUBLIC WAY (3) N Chamberlain 8 10 4 — Miss C Metcalfe (5) 11
7 200621 DON'T DROP BOMBS (5) (D) D Thom 7 10 4 (5ex) — Miss J Feilden 13 V
8 44-4350 YUPPY GIRL (18) Capt J Wilson 3 10 0 — Miss S Bosley (3) 18
9 34406-0 PAPER MAZE (45) E Owen jun 3 9 12 — Mrs F Williams (7) 5
10 605/0/0 NEVER SO BRAVE (20) J Bethell 6 9 10 — Mrs O Wildmore (7) 6
11 0060 FORGET PARIS (3) B Rothwell 3 9 9 — Miss D Kettlewell 15
12 0-00032 ZELBA (15) Mrs N Macauley 4 9 7 — Miss A Elsey 10
13 0-00066 INTREPID FORT (3) B Murray 7 9 5 — Mrs C Williams (7) 8 B
14 00-0404 CHEVELEY DANCER (31) T J Naughton 8 9 4 — Miss P Robson 2
15 0006-00 NEWGATE HUSH (60) B Murray 4 9 0 — Miss M Carson (5) 18
16 0-65000 DAUPHIN (18) W Musson 3 9 0 — Mrs J Moore (5) 7
17 0/0050-0 WRITTEN AGREEMENT (17) R Peacock 8 9 0 — Mrs C Peacock (7) 12
18 4650-00 ICE MAGIC (20) (D) F Yardley 9 9 0 — Miss S Yardley (7) 1 V
– 18 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Don't Drop Bombs, 5-1 Commander Glen, Gold Blade, 7-1 Raindeer Quest, 8-1 Public Way, Cheveley Dancer, 12-1 others

2.50 DIANNE NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2YO 6f

1 0521 NOSTALGIC AIR (USA) (22) (CD) E Weymes 9 7 — J Quinn 2
2 062 NINTH SYMPHONY (32) P Haslam 9 4 — G Carter 4
3 364 RUM LAD (19) J Quinn 9 3 — S Drowne (5) 8
4 20651 DOCKLANDS CARRIAGE (21) (D) N Tinkler 9 3 — K Darley 1 B
5 034 GIPSY PRINCESS (39) M W Easterby 9 1 — G Parkin (5) 3
6 400 OUR FUTURE (39) M Johnston 9 0 — J Fanning 5
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Nostalgic Air, 7-2 Ninth Symphony, 4-1 Rum Lad, 9-2 Docklands Carriage, 5-1 Gipsy Princess, 6-1 Our Future

3.20 BRADLEY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 2f

1 0 SLY LADY (53) W Elsey 4 9 2 — A Culhane 3
2 JUNGLE FRESH J Bethell 3 8 10 — S Drowne (3) 2
3 06 MEZZANOTTE (15) L Cumani 3 8 10 — K Darley 5
4 2-3 DEGREE (68) (BF) H Cecil 3 8 5 — W Ryan 1
5 MEADOW BLUE Miss L Siddall 3 8 5 — W J O'Connor 6
6 02 PUCE (18) L Cumani 3 8 5 — Jo Hunnam (7) 4
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 4-7 Degree, 3-1 Puce, 4-1 Mezzanotte, 20-1 Jungle Fresh, 33-1 Meadow Blue, Sly Lady

3.55 ACC DAIRYMEN MILK HANDICAP (CLASS D) £7,000 added 6f

1 00-0000 CALL ME I'M BLUE (24) (D) N Tinkler 6 9 10 — M Birch 3
2 050234 HALMANERROR (8) (CD) Mrs J Ramsden 6 9 7 — D Holland 1
3 006503 CIM BOM BOM (10) (CD) M Bell 4 9 5 — G Faulkner (7) 4 V
4 615052 CAPTAIN CARAT (3) (C) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 5 9 4 — D Urbina 2
5 031112 WARDARA (9) (D) (BF) C Dwyer 4 9 3 — F Lynch (3) 7 V
6 035-002 FORMIDABLE LIZ (8) (CD) M Hammond 6 8 6 — J Quinn 8
7 05-1513 MURRAY'S MAZDA (17) (CD) J L Eyre 7 8 4 — R Lappin 5
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 11-4 Halmanerror, 4-1 Formidable Liz, Wardara, 5-1 Murray's Mazda, 6-1 Captain Carat, 7-1 Cim Bom Bom, 16-1 Call Me I'm Blue

4.25 TANSHELF MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 4f

1 3/4-2 DACHA (22) H Cecil 4 9 7 — W Ryan 5
2 042222- STEP ALOFT (262) Lord Huntingdon 4 9 2 — D Harrison 1
3 04 AREN'T WE LUCKY (25) J J O'Neill 3 8 8 — J Carroll 2
4 0 BALLET DE COUR (20) W Elsey 3 8 8 — A Culhane 8
5 MINERAL WATER J Bethell 3 8 8 — S Drowne (3) 7
6 2-0 CANDRIKA (10) L Cumani 3 8 3 — D Urbina 6
7 0 LOMOND LASSIE (USA) (10) T Kersey 3 8 3 — N Carlisle 3
8 RUSSIAN ROULETTE M Johnston 3 8 3 — J Fanning 9
9 TOTEM DANCER J L Eyre 3 8 3 — R Lappin 4
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 4-5 Dacha, 7-2 Step Aloft, 5-1 Russian Roulette, 6-1 Candrika, 10-1 Aren't We Lucky, 25-1 Totem Dancer, 33-1 others

5.00 KING RICHARD III HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added fillies 1m

1 1-5215 BUBBLE WINGS (FR) (29) (D) S Woods 4 9 10 — W Woods 8
2 61020-0 RACING BRENDA (29) (D) B Morgan 5 9 5 — G Carter 3
3 3-00503 JUST MILLIE (USA) (18) J Banks 3 9 4 — G Faulkner (7) 8
4 0000 VOODOO ROCKET (17) (BF) J Gosden 3 9 2 — J Carroll 11
5 00-0544 PHASE ONE (12) (D) (BF) J L Eyre 6 8 12 — R Lappin 2
6 0-00405 PRUDENT PET (21) (CD) C Fairhurst 4 8 12 — J Tate 4 V
7 600-000 PETITE HERITIERE (18) M Ryan 3 8 7 — M Baird (5) 12
8 000-50 OATEY (76) Mrs J Ramsden 3 8 6 — D Holland 7
9 40-0005 ALFAYZA (12) J Bethell 3 8 5 — S Drowne (3) 13
10 40-2400 SHE'S SIMPLY GREAT (12) J J O'Neill 3 8 3 — K Darley 1
11 002312 HOW COULD-I (3) (D) Mrs N Macauley 3 7 11 — J Quinn 5 B
12 0-402 HOT DOGGING (17) Mrs P Sly 3 7 10 — N Carlisle 9
13 000505 HUNZA STORY (6) N Littmoden 4 7 10 — Jo Hunnam (7) 10
14 0800-00 DOLLY DOLITTLE (15) H Collingridge 5 7 10 — N Adams 14
– 14 declared –

Minimum weight 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: Hot Dogging 7st 9lb, Hunza Story 7st 6lb, Dolly Dolittle 6st 5lb.
BETTING: 5-1 How Could-I, 6-1 Bubble Wings, Oatey, 7-1 Alfayza, Just Millie, 8-1 Phase One, Hot Dogging, 10-1 others

5.30 MONKHILL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 2f

1 21-0251 ANOTHER TIME (20) (D) S Woods 4 9 9 — W Woods 6
2 223-313 SHARPICAL (20) (D BF) Sir Mark Prescott 4 9 9 — D Harrison 4
3 04233-U RED VALERIAN (13) G M Moore 5 9 7 — J Tate 1 B
4 412263 SMARTER CHARTER (3) Mrs J Ramsden 3 8 12 — D Holland 3
5 16216 CALL ME (22) C Thornton 3 8 11 — Dean McKeown 2
6 026-432 LADY BANKES (34) W Turner 3 8 7 — D Sweeney (7) 5
7 34-3440 SWEETNESS HERSELF (32) M Ryan 3 8 7 — M Baird (5) 7
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Smarter Charter, 3-1 Sharpical, 7-2 Another Time, 7-1 Red Valerian, Call Me, 8-1 Lady Bankes, 16-1 Sweetness Herself

RACING RESULTS

BATH

2.00: 1. **DOTS DEE** (M Henry) 10-1; 2. **Durham** 9-2 fav; 3. **Supermick** 6-1. **15 ran.** ¾, nk. (J M Bradley, Chepstow). **Tote:** £12.60; £4.30, £1.10, £3.70. DF: £20.50. CSF: £52.50. Tricast: £274.36. Trio: £70.40.

2.30: 1. **FLYING GREEN** (T Sprake) 8-1; 2. **King Of Sparta** 10-11 fav; 3. **Kidston Lass** 4-1. **14 ran.** 6, sht-hd. (R Charlton, Beckhampton). **Tote:** £6.50; £2.00, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £5.30. CSF: £15.98. Trio: £7.70. NR: Sharp Progress.

3.00: 1. **FLORENTINO** (Pat Eddery) 2-1 fav; 2. **Classic Defence** 3-1; 3. **Askern** 4-1. **8 ran.** 1¼, 2½. (B Hills, Lambourn). **Tote:** £2.50; £1.40, £2.10. DF: £3.40. CSF: £8.06.

3.30: 1. **SILVER PURSE** (T Sprake) 33-1; 2. **Irtifa** 7-2; 3. **Onelnight With You** 25-1. **11 ran.** 100-30 fav Effervescence (4th). Sht-hd, nk. (A Jones, Eastbury). **Tote:** £27.60; £3.00, £1.80, £6.20. DF: £133.20. CSF: £142.52. Trio: £276.30; £315.22 carried forward to Newmarket 2.35 today.

4.00: 1. **SPECIAL BEAT** (T Quinn) 4-1; 2. **Pedaltothemetal** 100-30; 3. **Sophism** 11-4 jt fav. **7 ran.** 11-4 jt fav Double Dash (5th). 1, 12. (P Cole, Whatcombe). **Tote:** £5.10; £3.20, £1.70. DF: £8.70. CSF: £17.83.

4.30: 1. **WALK THE BEAT** (D Sweeney) 7-2; 2. **Deardaw** 33-1; 3. **Astral Invader** 13-1. **11 ran.** 7-4 fav Banges (4th). Sht-hd, nk. (M Meade, Malmesbury). **Tote:** £4.40; £1.30, £2.90, £2.80. DF: £53.30. CSF: £91.17. Tricast: £1,075.84. Trio: £324.30.

Placepot: £164.40. **Quadpot:** £63.80.
Place 6: £176.39. **Place 5:** £57.48.

MUSSELBURGH

2.15: 1. **FAREWELL MY LOVE** (K Darley) 1-4 fav; 2. **Colonel's Pride** 33-1; 3. **Soda** 3-1. **3 ran.** 1½, nk. (P Cole, Whatcombe). **Tote:** £1.10. DF: £3.10. CSF: £4.40.

2.45: 1. **MILLTOWN CLASSIC** (J Fanning) 40-1; 2. **Mithraic** 4-1 co fav; 3. **Trumped** 6-1. **13 ran.** 4-1 co favs Cottage Prince, Kestal Breeze. 6l, hd, nk. (J Parkes, Malton). **Tote:** £21.20; £4.60, £2.50, £2.80. DF: £133.60. CSF: £192.70. Tricast: £1,052.22. Trio: £230.80.

3.15: 1. **SILK COTTAGE** (Dean McKeown) 2-1 fav; 2. **Swan At Whalley** 3-1; 3. **Gonda** 14-1. **8 ran.** 1, 1½. (R Whitaker, Wetherby). **Tote:** £3.60; £1.30, £1.10, £2.30. Dual Forecast: £5.10. Computer Straight Forecast: £8.80. Tricast: £61.83.

3.45: 1. **BOBANLYN** (J Bramhill) 9-4 jt fav; 2. **Philmist** 3-1; 3. **Ragtime Cowgirl** 9-4 jt fav. 9 ran. 5, 7. (J Wainwright, Malton). **Tote:** £4.00; £1.10, £1.20, £1.20. Dual Forecast: £6.40. Computer Straight Forecast: £10.12. Tricast: £16.19. Trio: £4.70

4.15: 1. **ANONYM** (J Bramhill) 5-2; 2. **Diet** 9-1; 3. **Allison's Mate** 4-5 fav. **5 ran.** ¾, nk. (D Nicholls, Thirsk). **Tote:** £3.00; £2.60, £3.90. Dual Forecast: £8.50. CSF: £19.41.

4.45: 1. **JAMBO** (R Lappin) 11-2; 2. **Rainbows Rhapsody** 6-1; 3. **Nawwam** 33-1. **10 ran.** 2-1 fav Dungeon Princess (4th). 3, 1½. (J L Eyre, Thirsk). **Tote:** £6.30; £1.90, £3.40, £4.20. DF: £28.00. CSF: £46.59. Tricast: £1,277.62. Trio: £300.70.

Placepot: £96.10 **Quadpot:** £26.50.
Place 6: £71.95. **Place 5:** £54.53

Evening results, page 23

Jordan raise the stakes in hunt for driver

Derick Allsop examines one team's efforts to attract enough money to challenge for the Formula One title

No team will travel a shorter distance to the British Grand Prix this week, but Jordan-Peugeot are restless to go further. Come the late summer, they hope to be in the market for a driver of proven winning ability and be heading for the next Formula One world championship as major players.

Such progress, of course, costs money. Although Jordan are yet to win a race at this level, let alone challenge for the title, they have earned a reputation for attracting sponsorship at a rate which belies their "second division" status.

They have about 32 backers (even their marketing man, Ian Phillips, has to pause to tot up the latest tally) and have wrong-footed illustrious, now envious, rivals to secure a long-term agreement with Benson & Hedges. Peugeot and Total are not only suppliers and partners but also the team's other major sponsors.

Benson & Hedges contribute around 60 per cent of Jordan's annual budget, which is estimated at £16m. It is a huge amount, yet modest compared with the resources of McLaren, Williams and Benetton, and almost insignificant by Ferrari's standards. Michael Schumacher's salary alone accounts for that much, an irony in itself as Jordan gave the German his debut.

The team are matching their own ambition with developments at their factory, across the road from the Silverstone circuit. Their work force, 42 when they entered Formula One five and a half years ago, will be up to 95 by the end of this month. Now they are chasing the extra cash.

Phillips said: "We have set ourselves a target whereby at the end of the month we will know where 75 to 80 per cent of our money for next year will be coming from, and that gives you greater powers to invest long term in drivers."

Probably the next thing Jordan needs to do, and needs to secure the money to do, is put themselves in a position to buy a driver you know is capable of winning, one who has a pedigree of winning. "When the driver market starts to be busy we need to know we are going to be a player in that. As yet, we have not been able to be a player."

That may be disturbing news for their current drivers, Rubens Barrichello and Martin Brundle, but tantalising for the sponsors and potential sponsors. And that, patently, is part of the business.

Nigel Mansell has frequently been linked with Jordan, and since there are precious few drivers around with winning pedigrees, the former champion's name has inevitably cropped up again of late. So, too, has that of Jean Alesi.

The driving force of this perpetually moving operation is the team's owner, Eddie Jordan, a Dubliner who always did talk a good race. Long before he negotiated deals for space on his grand prix car, he sold salmon to rugby fans over for internationals at Lansdowne Road.

Phillips said: "He is, for a period of 10 to 12 minutes, the most blinding salesman you are ever likely to meet. He's not a con man because he genuinely believes that what he's saying he can deliver. And at a grand prix he will charm the pants off 500 people in the Paddock Club.

"Most people call us Laurel and Hardy. Eddie will come up with the wonderful, innovative sales pitch, and at a certain time he'll come to a halt and I add the practical side of it. I guess it is a double act, but the inspiration is always Eddie.

"The other thing we have going for us is a tremendous public following considering we don't have wins and championships to our name. We want people to visit our factory and get involved with Jordan at other events. We take our car and team to the people. We are not élitist. There is perhaps too much élitism in Formula One."

Optimism and vitality have been a feature of Jordan since that first season, when they finished fifth in the constructors' championship. As yet, they have to improve on that achievement, and they acknowledge it is time they did.

"You can go for so long with the strategy of keeping the sponsors happy seven days a week, and hopefully we'll never lose that," Phillips said. "But at the end of the day the reason we are passionately involved in this game is because we want to win, and, of course, sponsors want to be associated with winners.

"We came in as total privateers in 1991, at the depth of probably the biggest recession for 50 years, and we built a very solid platform during difficult times. But the honeymoon period must now be over. The pressure is on. We don't want to be known as people making up the numbers. We are trying to convince our sponsors that with serious investment we can buy the drivers that are going to win the world championship.

"We have Peugeot, who are very close to having the best engine in Formula One, and we are investing in our own resources to make sure we've got a car capable of matching the best. The final element is drivers. You can't achieve any of that without money."

Morris returns with three-year Sale deal

Rugby Union

Sale have signed Dewi Morris, the former Orrell, England and Lions scrum-half. Morris has not played competitive rugby since announcing his retirement after last year's World Cup in South Africa.

Morris has agreed a three-year deal to become the English First Division club's latest big-name capture. Brian Wilkinson, Sale's chief executive, said: "We have great plans and an exciting vision of where we wish to be in five years' time. Dewi intends to play a big part in that development."

Sale have already snapped up Adrian Hadley, the former Welsh rugby league and union international, in a permanent deal. The club have also agreed a short-term winter deal with John Devereux, the Widnes and Wales rugby league centre.

Neath have appointed the Wales international prop John Davies as club captain. He succeeds Gareth Llewellyn, who has joined Harlequins.

The world champions, South Africa, have delayed naming their side for Saturday's Tri-Nations Test against Australia in Sydney because of an injury to their full-back Andre Joubert.

The South African tour management will today check on the fitness of Joubert, who was hurt in last week's Test against Fiji. The South African coach, Andre Markgraaff, has given Joubert, who has an upper body injury, a "better than 50 per cent" chance of playing.

With no other specialist full-back, South Africa would almost certainly switch either James Small or his fellow wing Justin Swart to fill the gap and bring in the speedster Pieter Hendriks, who is recovering from a bout of gastroenteritis.

The Australians have reacted to last Saturday's 43-6 hiding from New Zealand by making four changes to the team to meet South Africa. Stand-off Pat Howard, scrum-half George Gregan, flanker Daniel Manu and prop Andrew Heath have all been recalled.

TODAY'S NUMBER

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The arrows that will be flying through the Atlanta air during the Olympic Games archery competitions. It is understood that native Americans are not taking part.

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WIMBLEDON 96: Steffi Graf and Richard Krajicek impose a kind of order. **John Roberts** looks back at a fortnight of chaos

Spirits lifted by surprises galore

As we were saying a fortnight ago, before we were so rudely interrupted by falling seeds, regular sessions of water torture, and a streaker: "Wimbledon could turn out to be a tournament for the eccentric."

The one constant factor was Steffi Graf, who overcame her aches, pains and snuffles and won the women's singles title for a seventh time in a repeat of last year's final against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

"I feel I'm in seventh heaven," Graf said during her speech at the champions' dinner at the Savoy, tossing in a little joke that when the All England Club's chairman, John Curry, did not arrive promptly she thought he might have been "arranging a male streaker for me".

The chairman had one or two other matters on his mind, such as when the tournament would finally end. He paid tribute to the efforts of his foul-weather friends, Chris Gorringe, the chief executive, Alan Mills, the referee, and Eddie Seaward and his ground staff, all of whom had featured more prominently than the competitors at various times.

While Graf needed no introduction, the men's singles champion did, and perhaps the most touching moment of the evening came when the chairman presented Richard Krajicek with his purple and green membership tie.

The 24-year-old from Rotterdam is the first Dutchman to win a Grand Slam singles title, never mind the most prestigious of the four. He said he hoped that his victory would inspire young boys back home to pick up a racket. Whatever about that, it has certainly taken their minds off that 4-1 drubbing by England at Wembley.

Krajicek also shares with Boris Becker the distinction of being Wimbledon's only unseeded singles champions. The accomplishment was denied to eight other unseeded finalists, Wilmer Allison, Kurt Nielsen, Rod Laver, Marty Mulligan, Fred Stolle, Wilhelm Bungert, Chris Lewis and, of course, MaliVai Washington, who was defeated by Krajicek on Sunday, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Washington, while disappointed not to be in possession of "a beautiful cup", accepted his invitation to the dinner and was arguably the most popular person in the room. The 27-year-old American may not have won the big prize, but he certainly charmed the spectators.

As for the new champion, it would be misleading to describe Krajicek as a late developer, especially since he has suffered almost as many injury problems as Graf.

One of his most frustrating experiences came at the Australian Open in 1992, when he defeated Michael Stich, the previous year's Wimbledon champion, in five sets in the quarter-finals but had to miss the semi-final match against Jim Courier after damaging his right shoulder playing doubles.

Krajicek hardly made the most promising of starts to this year's campaign. He lost to Greg Rusedski, 7-6, 7-6, in the opening round of the Sydney tournament in January, and retired hurt during his match against the Frenchman Jean-Philippe Fleurian in the third round of the Australian Open.

Andre Agassi said of Krajicek: "He only has to think about tennis and he gets injured". A glance at their relative achievements so far this season suggests that Agassi would be advised to apply his own mind and body to the game.

Krajicek, who is 6ft 5in, always had the potential to make an impact on grass courts, but he tended to lack the confidence in his return game to maximise the advantage of a mighty serve. He advanced to the third round in 1991 and 1992, and the fourth round in 1993, but consecutive first-round defeats persuaded the All England Club not to give him a seeding, even though he came into the tournament ranked No 13 in the world.

"I was surprised I wasn't seeded, of course," he said after the final, "because I had been playing well, although it was on clay, in the finals of Rome and the quarter-finals in the French Open. But I understood a little bit, because in the last two years I lost in the first round. It does not bother me too much. It's not like I have the feeling that I have proved something to the committee."

The way he dismantled Stich in the fourth round and Pete Sampras, the holder of the title for the previous three years, in the quarter-finals, proved something to everybody.

Tim Henman, while lacking Krajicek's physical presence, can take encouragement from the Dutchman's success. At the same time, Henman's prospects of winning Wimbledon one day should not obscure the essential point, that the nation at last has a contender of substance on the ATP Tour.

The 21-year-old from Oxford's advance to the last eight was one of the most inspiring features of a tournament which in other ways threatened to dampen the spirits.

Attendances were down for a variety of reasons – *Euro 96*, a couple of Tube strikes, inclement weather after the previous three championships had been bathed in sunshine, and the early elimination of such notables as Agassi, Monica Seles, Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker, who injured a wrist.

Few major entertainment productions would be able to withstand such a culling, and the international television networks became increasingly uneasy as the days went by.

Tennis has always been driven by personality, but the sport's transformation as an industry since embracing professionalism in 1968 has intensified the demand for star names to sell tournaments.

The position may not have been so acute back in 1973, when Wimbledon boasted record crowds even though the majority of the leading men boycotted the championships because of a dispute between the Association of Tennis Professionals and the International Tennis Federation.

In the final, Jan Kodes, the Czech No 2 seed, defeated Alex Metreveli, from the Soviet Union, the No 4 seed, but it could hardly be said that the draw was completely lacking in characters, with Ilie Nastase seeded No 1 and Jimmy Connors at No 5. In addition, a 17-year-old Swede by the name of Bjorn Borg was defeated in the quarter-finals by a Briton, Roger Taylor.

Overall, the All England Club is left with much to consider in the months ahead. And perhaps, when the item headed "streaker" is discussed, some of the older members may smile and ask themselves why "Gorgeous Gussie" Moran's lace panties caused such shock-horror in 1949.

Expect the unexpected

John Roberts' pre-tournament prediction

Tim Henman has climbed into the top 50 of the world rankings for the first time. The 21-year-old Briton moved up 23 places to 39 after reaching the Wimbledon quarter-finals. In 12 months, Henman has moved up 237 places – in June last year he was ranked 276. Greg Rusedski has dropped seven places to 72, having been 33 earlier in the year.

Double delight: Martina Hingis (right) and Helena Sukova on their way to victory yesterday Photograph: Adam Butler/PA

Place in history for Hingis

Martina Hingis yesterday became the youngest Wimbledon champion in history – aged 15 years and 282 days – after she and partner Helena Sukova quickly completed a rain-delayed women's doubles victory.

The Swiss girl and Sukova celebrated after their victory over Meredith McGrath and Larisa Nieland by 5-7, 7-5, 6-1 as Wimbledon went into its third week.

"It's great to win at Wimbledon. For every tennis player it's a big goal to win Wimbledon, even the doubles," said Hingis, who is three days younger than the previous youngest, Lottie Dod, who took the singles title in 1887.

Hingis, beaten by the seven-times champion Steffi Graf in the singles, added: "Hopefully one day I'll do it in the singles too." The final had been held over from yesterday because of persistent rain interruptions, but Centre Court was packed as fans took advantage of free admission.

The resumption was held up for 15 minutes to allow hundreds of late arrivals the chance to take their seats – then the action lasted just three minutes.

Hingis and Sukova, from the Czech Republic, had been a set and 5-2 down but had turned the match around to lead overnight 4-1 in the third set.

Sukova held her serve to 15 and she and Hingis gained their first match points at 15-40 with the American, McGrath, serving.

Sukova squandered the first with a forehand over the baseline. But Hingis clinched their victory with a backhand down the line at Nieland's feet when the Latvian's backhand failed to get the ball back over the net.

Sukova also carried off the mixed doubles with her brother, Cyril Suk, after a marathon stint. Sukova played three matches in the mixed yesterday, winning her quarter-final against the Americans Luke Jensen and Nicole Arendt 6-3, 2-6, 10-8; her semi-final against the Canadian Grant Connell and the American Lindsay Davenport 6-4 6-2; and the final against the Australian Mark Woodforde and the unfortunate Neiland 1-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Kent emerge top dogs

Cricket

DAVID LLEWELLYN
reports from Maidstone
Kent 363 & 244
Durham 269 & 255
Kent win by 83 runs

There is no doubt about it, cricket is a dog's life. Kent, who finished bottom of the pile last season, are back as County Championship top dogs after Durham rolled over with a whimper and handed them a comfortable victory and maximum points here yesterday.

From the moment Carl Hooper's off-spin tempted Stewart Hutton into presenting mid-on with his wicket Kent were hungry to snatch the match from their opponents. They scented victory from then on and circled their prey like a pack of wolves, picking off stragglers and struggles and enticing away the stronger ones into ambushes.

Finally the *coup de grâce*. A murderous burst of fast bowling by the England discard, Martin McCague, docked the Durham tail before it had much of a chance to wag, picking up two of the last three wickets, which fell in the space of a dozen balls shortly after the game entered the final 16 overs.

Durham are now without a win in their opening 10 matches, while Kent are five points clear this morning. McCague's three wickets took his tally to 38 and there was an encouraging trio of victims for Dean Headley. Unfortunately, having returned to action following a serious hip problem, Headley, nicknamed "Frog", had to hop out of the action shortly before McCague began the last rites. He strained his left ankle, although he was confident of being fit for the NatWest second round tie at Derby tomorrow.

Given their record this season, the 328 runs that Durham needed for victory when they set out yesterday were always going to be too many, but they had all second-innings wickets standing and Sherwin Campbell, the West Indies Test opener, wanted a second Championship century to convince sceptical Durham fans that he is worthy signing. He did not get it. After nearly four hours of graft he could not resist a slash at Nigel Llong and fell in the gully 15 runs short of three figures.

With him went any realistic hopes of a Durham win, yet there was always the hope that they could hold out for the draw. But when the captain, Mike Roseberry, still battling for form despite a first-innings half-century, departed for an ineffectual 17 only Phil Bainbridge stood in the way of annihilation, and his hour and a half of snarling at the Kent predators was wiped out when McCague thundered in from the Rugby End and sparked a savage finish.

McCague: Three-wicket haul

Millns doubles the punishment

MICHAEL AUSTIN
reports from Leicester
Leicestershire 454-9 dec
Essex 163 and 247
Leicestershire win by innings and 44 runs

This was a romantic match for David Millns and the result a boon for Leicestershire. County champions for the only time 21 years ago, they have swept back into the top three in the table. Romance for Millns, 31, was joining the rare breed of those who have taken 10 wickets in a game and scored a first-class hundred, a maiden one at that – more akin in modern times to Sir Garfield Sobers, Mike Procter and Ian Botham.

Millns, an England A tourist, was at his devastating best as he took 6 for 20 in 7.4 overs in the second innings, returned 10 for 128 overall, and offered a reminder of what could have been in a career that began with Nottinghamshire.

His performance meant that Essex were sent packing, back to Chelmsford, for lighter duties in the NatWest Trophy against Durham tomorrow. They were beaten by pure Leicester professionalism: fast bowling and outstanding catches – by Adrian Pierson at wide third slip and Aftab Habib at long off.

Leicestershire have the bonding factor – the one-age cricket buddle borrowed from rugby. Someone called it "bondage", maybe because when a batsman is dismissed, the fielders link arms in a circle. They also have a designated daily catchword in these post-wicket-taking rituals. It was probably "golf" this time because they were well on course for that before lunch.

As for Millns, he was mean and magnificent, and had a catalogue of success that would have made Essex's Ronnie Irani wince. Irani, omitted by England, dashed from Trent Bridge last week, only to bag a pair in six balls and be dispatched for four an over when bowling.

It was another triumph for Leicestershire, having beaten Yorkshire, also by an innings, in their previous match. They have been lightly regarded for umpteen years, but Essex, with seven assorted titles in the 1980s to Leicestershire's one, do not view it that way. They have now lost five consecutive Championship matches to perhaps the county that might be regarded as their Midlands equivalents – home-spun upstarts away from the Test ground focus.

The wickets grabbed by Millns in the second innings were clear-cut: Paul Prichard leg-before to a ball keeping slightly low; Irani dismissed playing a poor stroke; Robert Rollins hanging around and waiting for a caught-at-the-wicket decision; Such and Neil Williams brilliantly taken. Finally, Ashley Cowan's off-stump was clipped, all in 15.4 overs.

■ Martin Bicknell and Brendon Julian bowled Surrey back into title contention yesterday with their first Championship success against Middlesex for nine years. Bicknell took 4 for 57 and Julian 3 for 54 as Surrey shot Middlesex out for 194 in their second innings at the Foster's Oval. Surrey the raced to 61 for 3 to win by seven wickets – and pick up maximum points.

Northants in fine fettle for the Cup

ADAM SZRETER
reports from Northampton
Northamptonshire 152 & 396-4 dec
Pakistan 323 & 205-8
Match drawn

A day that began steadily, ended brightly but sagged rather shabbily in the middle, will ultimately have left neither side with cause for complaint as they focus on their more significant tasks ahead.

The tourists will be happy in the knowledge that, in Shadab Kabir they have uncovered a real gem of a left-handed batsman, waiting for his opportunity at Test level should Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq or Salim Malik fluff their lines.

Northamptonshire will go into their Cup double-header with Lancashire, first at Old Trafford tomorrow and then at Lord's on Saturday, in confident mood after an opening stand between Richard Montgomerie and Alan Fordham that was worth 255 when Fordham decided to retire.

Quite why he took that decision remained a mystery for some time, although as he has played little first-team cricket this season and is unlikely to feature in the Benson and Hedges Cup final perhaps he felt obliged to give a chance to someone who would be playing at Lord's. In the end, perhaps mindful of his average, he was listed as retired hurt, with apparent eye trouble, rather than retired out.

Fordham had reached a creditable century in the last over before lunch. Montgomerie went on to emulate his partner but the bowling throughout the afternoon was not very serious.

In all, Pakistan used 10 bowlers and two wicketkeepers before the declaration came, setting a target of 226 in what turned out to be 33 overs.

Kabir was promoted to open and he proceeded to cut and drive his way to 52 from only 60 balls before being caught low down at short extra cover by Rob Bailey off Jeremy Snape.

Wasim Akram and Ijaz Ahmed threatened to launch an assault, but it was nipped in the bud when Ijaz was run out for 39, made from only 30 balls. Wasim perished soon after and when Rashid Latif was bowled by Snape for a duck the game seemed to be up for Pakistan.

But Moin Khan and Asif Mujtaba took an instant liking to Snape's off-spin and put on 63 in double-quick time. Moin, eventually fell for 39 and the draw was effectively sealed when Montgomerie held a steepling catch to dismiss Saeed Anwar in the penultimate over.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Final day of four

Gloucestershire v Glamorgan

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire (4pts) drew with Glamorgan (11).
Glamorgan won toss
GLAMORGAN – First Innings 509 for 3 dec (M P Maynard 145no, S P James 118, H Morris 108, P A Cottey 101no).
GLOUCESTERSHIRE – First Innings 181 (G P Butcher 7-77).
GLOUCESTERSHIRE – Second Innings
A J Wright lbw b Butcher 30
R J Cunliffe c Butcher b Croft 82
T H C Hancock b Croft 6
R I Dawson c Shaw b Croft 18
A Symonds c James b Croft 30
M W Alleyne lbw b Watkin 29
†R C J Williams c Shaw b Watkin 13
M C J Ball not out 0
A M Smith b Watkin 0
J Lewis not out 1
Extras (b7, lb4, nb4) 15
Total (for 8, 106.5 overs) 224
Fall: 1-51, 2-78, 3-143, 4-144, 5-185, 6-220, 7-223, 8-223.
Did not bat: *C A Walsh.
Bowling: Watkin 24.5-10-37-3; Paden 17-6-58-0; Butcher 15-2-54-1; Croft 36-20-39-4; Kendrick 12-7-25-0; Maynard 2-2-0-0.
Umpires: G I Burgess and J H Harris.

Lancashire v Worcestershire

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire (8pts) drew with Worcestershire (11).
Worcestershire won toss
LANCASHIRE – First Innings 392 (J E R Gallian 140, G D Lloyd 59; V S Solanki 5-116).
WORCESTERSHIRE – First Innings 350 for 3 dec (W P C Weston 171no, T M Moody 108).
LANCASHIRE – Second Innings
(Saturday: 26 for 2)
G P Titchard st Rhodes b Solanki 20
G Chapple c Illingworth b Solanki 19
N H Fairbrother b Illingworth 53
G D Lloyd c Weston b Solanki 72
*M Watkinson c Curtis b Solanki 9
†W K Hegg not out 30
I D Austin not out 37
Extras (b4, lb1) 5
Total (for 7 dec, 64 overs) 255
Fall (cont): 3-31, 4-98, 5-108, 6-139, 7-204.
Did not bat: S Elworthy, G Keedy.
Bowling: Shetiyar 4-0-11-0; Ellis 5-3-7-1; Illingworth 28-9-93-1; Solanki 27-3-140-5.
WORCESTERSHIRE – Second Innings
W P C Weston c Hegg b Chapple 11
M J Church c Austin b Elworthy 4
T S Curtis c Hegg b Chapple 0
K R Spring b Watkinson 21
V S Solanki not out 62
*T M Moody not out 67
Extras (lb6) 6
Total (for 4, 48 overs) 171
Fall: 1-10, 2-10, 3-19, 4-53.
Did not bat: S R Lampitt, B J Rhodes, R K Illingworth, S W K Ellis, A Shetiyar.
Bowling: Chapple 7-1-19-2; Elworthy 11-1-38-1; Watkinson 11-2-62-1; Keedy 10-3-27-0; Austin 3-0-13-0; Gallian 3-1-6-0.
Umpires: H D Bird and A A Jones.

Kent v Durham

MAIDSTONE: Kent (24pts) beat Durham (5) by 83 runs.
Kent won toss
KENT – First Innings 363 (C L Hooper 86, D P Fulton 64, N J Llong 64, T R Ward 50; S J Brown 5-76).
DURHAM – First Innings 269 (P Bainbridge 71, M A Roseberry 60; M J McCague 4-69).
KENT – Second Innings 244 (C L Hooper 105, T R Ward 60; S J Brown 4-58).
DURHAM – Second Innings
(Saturday: 7 for 0)
S L Campbell c Preston b Llong 85
S Hutton c Stanford b Hooper 35
J E Morris b Stanford 18
D A Blenkiron c sub b Headley 5
*M A Roseberry b McCague 17
P Bainbridge c Marsh b McCague 47
†D C Lugsdwood lbw b Headley 8
M M Betts b Headley 0
S J E Brown b McCague 8
D M Cox c sub b Llong 3
I Wood not out 0
Extras (b5, lb8, nb16) 29
Total (94.3 overs) 255
Fall: 1-72, 2-112, 3-139, 4-173, 5-187, 6-221, 7-225, 8-250, 9-255.
Bowling: McCague 21.1-7-60-3; Headley 26.2-5-77-3; Preston 6-2-15-0; Hooper 23-8-46-1; Stanford 10-5-26-1; Llong 8-1-18-2.
Umpires: N T Plews and R Palmer.

Surrey v Middlesex

THE OVAL: Surrey (24pts) beat Middlesex (5) by seven wickets.
Middlesex won toss
MIDDLESEX – First Innings 232 (M R Ramprakash 80, M W Gatting 52; M P Bicknell 5-54, B P Julian 4-63).
SURREY – First Innings 366 (A J Hollioake 84, A D Brown 57; P C R Tufnell 5-56).
MIDDLESEX – Second Innings
(Saturday: 43 for 2).
M R Ramprakash c Ratcliffe b Julian 28
*M W Gatting b M P Bicknell 53
J D Carr b Julian 0
†K R Brown c Kersey b M P Bicknell 5
J P Hewett not out 29
R L Johnson lbw b Julian 3
R A Fay c Hollioake b M P Bicknell 14
A R C Fraser c and b M P Bicknell 2
P C R Tufnell c Kersey b Hollioake 3
Extras (b8, lb3, w6, nb34) 51
Total (73 overs) 194
Fall (cont): 3-71, 4-75, 5-120, 6-131, 7-150, 8-177, 9-185.
Bowling: M P Bicknell 25-5-57-4; Benjamin 22-10-50-2; Julian 21-6-54-3; Hollioake 5-0-22-1.
SURREY – Second Innings
M A Butcher c Carr b Johnson 26
J D Ratcliffe b Tufnell 8
N Shahid not out 17
A D Brown c sub b Johnson 2
*A J Hollioake not out 6
Extras (nb2) 2
Total (for 3, 24.2 overs) 61
Fall: 1-28, 2-40, 3-48.
Did not bat: D I Bicknell, B P Julian, †G J Kersey, M P Bicknell, R M Pearson, J E Benjamin.
Bowling: Fraser 5-2-19-0; Tufnell 12-5-17-1; Johnson 6-1-13-2; Hewitt 1.2-0-7-0.
Umpires: J D Bond and A G T Whitehead.

Warwickshire v Notts

EDGBASTON: Warwickshire (21pts) beat Nottinghamshire (4) by 85 runs.
Warwickshire won toss
WARWICKSHIRE – First Innings 350 for 8 dec (M Burns 81, T L Penney 60, N M K Smith 54).
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – First Innings (A A Metcalfe 91, C L Cairns 68no).
WARWICKSHIRE – Second Innings
(Saturday: 34 for 0).
*A J Moles c Walker b Evans 25
N V Knight c Archer b Afford 46
†M Burns not out 65
N M K Smith not out 5
Extras (b4, lb3, nb10) 17
Total (for 2, 25 overs) 158
Fall: 1-34, 2-133.
Did not bat: D P Ostler, T L Penney, D R Brown, S M Pollock, A F Giles, G Welch, G C Small.
Bowling: Pick 4-3-4-0; Bowen 9-1-54-0; Evans 5-0-34-1; Afford 4-0-27-1; Archer 3-0-32-0.
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – Second Innings
P R Pollard c Moles b Giles 57
R T Robinson lbw b Pollock 0
A A Metcalfe c Burns b Giles 44
*P Johnson c Smith b Giles 2
C F Archer b Pollock 1
C L Cairns b Small 24
K P Evans c Smith b Pollock 60
†L N P Walker b Giles 1
M N Bowen b Small 2
R A Pick c Brown b Giles 2
J A Afford not out 0
Extras (b10, lb8) 18
Total (66.5 overs) 211
Fall: 1-5, 2-96, 3-104, 4-110, 5-116, 6-158, 7-173, 8-176, 9-203.
Bowling: Pollock 10.5-4-19-3; Small 13-2-52-2; Giles 26-7-70-5; Welch 5-2-7-0; Smith 7-0-29-0; Brown 5-0-18-0.
Umpires: M J Kitchen and K E Palmer.

Leicestershire v Essex

LEICESTER: Leicestershire (24pts) beat Essex (3) by an innings and 44 runs.
Leicestershire won toss
ESSEX – First Innings 163 (G J Parsons 4-21, D J Millns 4-74).
LEICESTERSHIRE – First Innings (V J Wells 197, D J Millns 103).
ESSEX – Second Innings
(Saturday: 193 for 4)
*P J Prichard lbw b Millns 28
P M Such c Pierson b Millns 13
R C Irani lbw b Millns 0
†R J Rollins c Nixon b Millns 0
N F Williams c Habib b Millns 17
A P Cowan b Millns 4
S J W Andrew not out 18
Extras (b5, lb7, nb6) 18
Total (78.4 overs) 247
Fall (cont): 5-213, 6-213, 7-213, 8-234, 9-239.
Bowling: Millns 13.4-2-54-6; Parsons 20-5-40-1; Simmons 15-2-65-2; Pierson 19-6-44-0; Wells 4-1-16-0; Brimson 7-1-16-1.
Umpires: J H Hampshire and J W Holder.

	P	W	L	D	Bad	Bat	Tot
Kent (18)	9	5	0	4	24	29	146
Yorkshire (6)	9	5	2	2	26	26	140
Leics (7)	8	4	1	3	29	27	139
Surrey (12)	9	3	1	5	29	32	124
Warwicks (1)	9	4	3	2	21	28	120
Derbyshire (14)	8	3	2	3	26	27	110
Sussex (15)	8	4	2	2	19	23	108
Middlesex (2)	9	3	4	2	17	31	102
Essex (5)	8	2	2	4	26	23	83
Somerset (9)	9	2	3	3	15	30	88
Hampshire (13)	7	2	2	3	21	22	85
Glamorgan (16)	8	2	4	2	23	19	80
Lancashire (4)	8	1	1	6	24	21	79
Notts (11)	8	1	3	5	22	24	77
Worcs (10)	8	1	3	4	17	26	73
Northants (3)	8	1	4	3	19	24	69
Gloucs (8)	8	1	4	3	3	26	66
Durham (17)	10	0	6	4	16	36	64

■ 1995 positions in brackets.

Tetley's Challenge Series

Final day of three
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire drew with Pakistan.
Northamptonshire won toss
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – First Innings 152 (Wasim Akram 5-58, Shahid Nazir 4-43).
PAKISTAN – First Innings 323 (Shadab Kabir 99, Saqlain Mushtaq 78; D J Capel 4-60).
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – Second Innings
(Overnight: 71 for 0)
R R Montgomerie c Asif b Moin 168
A Fordham retired 144
M B Loye c Rashid b Moin 6
*R J Bailey c Rashid b Shahid 29
J G Hughes c Mohammad b Shahid 6
D J Capel not out 9
J N Snape not out 4
Extras (b3, lb11, nb16) 30
Total (for 4 dec, 80.3 overs) 396
Fall: 1-305, 2-353, 3-373, 4-392.
Did not bat: †R J Warren, D Ripley, N A Mallender, S A J Boswell.
Bowling: Wasim Akram 15-4-48-0; Mohammad Akram 13-2-49-0; Shahid Nazir 11-1-27-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 13-1-45-0; Rashid Latif 5-1-26-0; Asif Mujtaba 9-0-52-0; Ijaz Ahmed 2-0-13-0; Moin Khan 9-0-78-2; Shahid Anwar 7.3-2-46-2.
PAKISTAN – Second Innings
Shahid Anwar c Loye b Boswell 12
Shadab Kabir c Bailey b Snape 52
Ijaz Ahmed run out 39
Wasim Akram b Capel 12
Asif Mujtaba not out 31
†Rashid Latif b Snape 0
Moin Khan c Montgomerie b Boswell 39
Saeed Anwar c Montgomerie b Snape 8
Saqlain Mushtaq c Warren b Bailey 2
Extras (b4, lb3, w1, nb2) 10
Total (for 8, 32.5 overs) 205
Fall: 1-33, 2-103, 3-114, 4-128, 5-129, 6-192, 7-201, 8-205.
Did not bat: Mohammad Akram, Shahid Nazir.
Bowling: Boswell 9-0-52-2; Hughes 7-2-46-0; Snape 9-0-63-3; Capel 7-1-34-1; Bailey 0.5-0-3-1.
Umpires: T E Jesty and P Willey.

Tour match

Final day of three
DERBY: Derbyshire drew with South Africa A.
South Africa A won toss
SOUTH AFRICA A – First Innings 322 for 4 dec (J H Kallis 92, H D Ackerman 79).
DERBYSHIRE – First Innings 318 for 5 dec (C J Adams 66, M R May 63, C M Wells 61).
SOUTH AFRICA A – Second Innings
(Overnight: 128 for 0)
S G Koenig b Dean 43
C F J Leibenberg b Aldred 123
H H Gibbs c Rollins b Vandrau 68
*J B Commins not out 59
†N Pothas not out 28
Extras (lb10, nb4) 14
Total (for 3 dec, 70 overs) 335
Fall: 1-132, 2-209, 3-283.
Did not bat: J H Kallis, H D Ackerman, N Boje, L Klusener, E J Smith, B N Schultz.
Bowling: Dean 11-3-32-1; Aldred 20-2-86-1; Vandrau 16-0-71-1; Griffith 7-0-67-0; Wells 7-3-17-0; Adams 3-0-8-0; Rollins 3-0-25-0; May 3-0-19-0.
DERBYSHIRE – Second Innings
J E Owen c Leibenberg b Smith 1
T J G O'Gorman not out 68
†A S Rollins c Pothas b Schultz 50
G Khan c Leibenberg b Schultz 15
M R May not out 32
Extras (lb1, nb8) 9
Total (for 3, 50 overs) 175
Fall: 1-2, 2-76, 3-100.
Did not bat: *C J Adams, C M Wells, M J Vandrau, P Aldred, F A Griffith, K J Dean.
Bowling: Schultz 12-0-81-2; Smith 8-2-22-1; Boje 18-4-43-0; Klusener 3-0-12-0; Leibenberg 3-2-1-0; Ackerman 5-1-10-0; Koenig 3-2-5-0.
Umpires: K J Lyons and J F Steele.
SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three; 11.0 today): Sheffield: Yorkshire 376 for 2 dec (R Robinson 122, M J Wood 62, A Parker 58). Durham 18 for 1. Middlesbrough: Sussex 305 (T A Radford 106, M Newell 77) v Middlesex. Uelle: Leicestershire 384 for 7 dec (V P Clarke 189); Glamorgan 44 for 1. Saffron Walden: Surrey 163 (A W Smith 50; O W Ayres 5-40); Essex 150 for 2 (S D Peters 99no).

Starting today

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (three-day, 11.0): Northampton: Northamptonshire v Gloucestershire.
MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (two-days, 11.0): Theme: Oxfordshire v Cornwall. Old Hill: Staffordshire v Buckinghamshire.

Overdue home win for champions

Round-up

Warwickshire achieved their first home Championship victory of the season yesterday as they edged out Nottinghamshire by 85 runs with Ashley Giles taking 5 for 70 – his best figures of the season – after the visitors had been set a target of 297 in 81 overs.

He was well supported Shaun Pollock, who took 3 for 19, as Warwickshire triumphed with 14.1 overs to spare and took the defending champions to fifth place.

Pollock trapped Tim Robinson lbw for nought in his first over but Paul Pollard and Ashley Metcalfe looked to have given Nottinghamshire a solid base with a stand of 91 in 35 overs. After a wayward opening spell, Giles switched to the City End and had Metcalfe caught behind for 44 and in his next over Paul Johnson perished at mid-off for two.

Wickets then fell at steady intervals and the only resistance came from Kevin Evans, who made 60 before he was last out caught hooking at Pollock.

Glamorgan's Steve Watkin broke into Gloucestershire's tail with a spell of three wickets in seven balls without a run being scored, but the Welsh side still had to settle for a draw. The home side held on with two wickets remaining and nine fielders around the bat for Watkin's final over.

SHORTS

Berzin's lead melts away in snow

Cycling

ROBIN NICHOLL
with the Tour de France

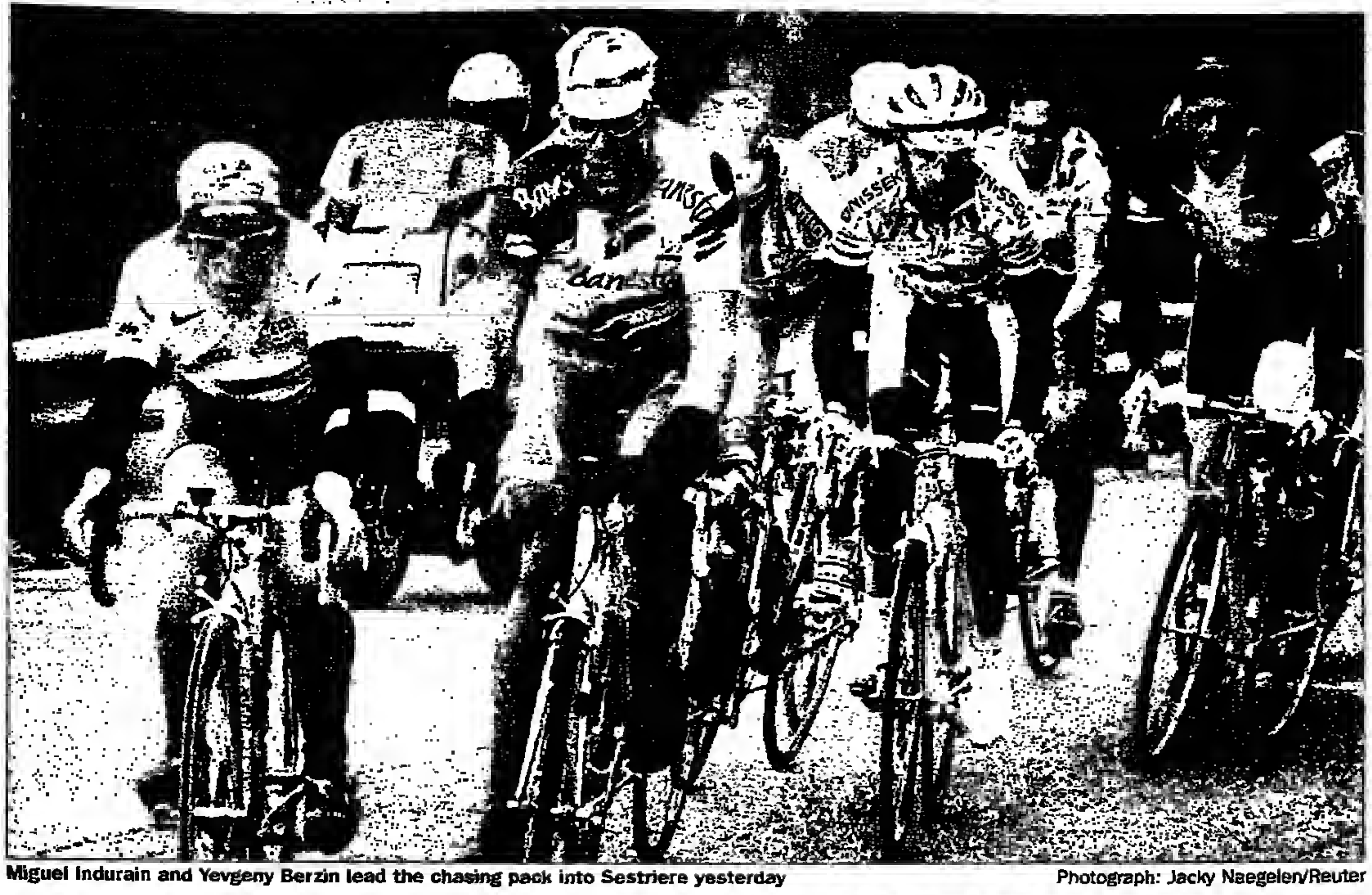
It was a bizarre day of ups and downs in the Tour de France yesterday. First it snowed, then the 189 kilometres into Italy was reduced to 46. The day ended with Bjarne Riis in the yellow jersey and Yevgeny Berzin, the overnight leader, in second place.

The giant Dane rode into the ski resort of Sestriere alone and triumphant after escaping midway through the race on the Col de Montgenèvre to wipe out Berzin's advantage of 35 seconds. Berzin lost ground on the long drag to Sestriere and finished 1min 23sec behind.

Riis, third in last year's race, now leads by 40 seconds. His victory was about the only clear-cut event of a day that Jean-Marie Leblanc and his fellow organisers would like to forget.

The original start at Val d'Isère was cancelled before breakfast after overnight reports of snow and strong winds on the highest climb of this Tour, the 2,770 metre Col d'Iséran.

Then, with everything in place to start the race from Lanslebourg at noon, 45km into the original route, similar conditions were reported on the 2,640 metres Col du Galibier. The stage was further reduced, and rescheduled to start at 3pm from Monêtier-les-Bains.



Miguel Indurain and Yevgeny Berzin lead the chasing pack into Sestriere yesterday   Photograph: Jacky Naegelen/Reuter

The riders rode most of the route in team cars and were led over the Iséran by a snowplough. "I was frustrated by the changes because I had a plan to attack, but when I saw what it was like I realised that we could not have raced on those mountains," Riis said.

Leblanc has handled emergencies in the past, but this was the first occasion that the weather had caused mayhem for him. It was, after all, July. "It was a shame for the climbers," Leblanc said. "But what we had to do was commonsense, and for the safety of the riders."

On the road to the Col du Galibier there was total confusion. A long line of traffic drove up the mountain. Advised that the road was closed, they drove down again until the message reached them that it was open.

On the slopes, frozen spectators gave the thumbs down to the passing vehicles and shouted insults. On the Iséran pass things got nastier as spectators, who had spent a freezing night in their camper vans, threw nails on the road.

The Tour has suffered vicious weather since it started 10 days ago but Miguel Indurain has remained calm even in his weekend of setbacks.

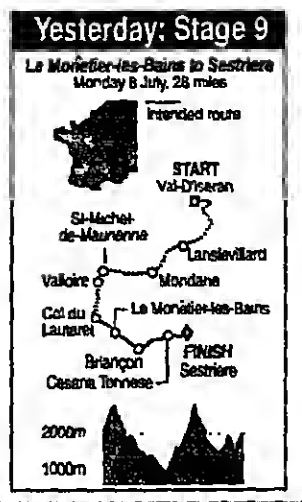
"Riis is dangerous and has a good team. I intend to attack but always intelligently," he said, knowing that he still has 12 days to claw back just over four minutes.

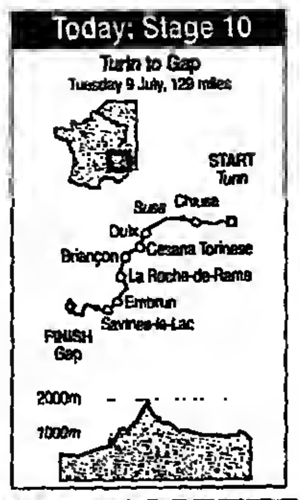
His team director, Eusebio Unzue, was equally positive. "Miguel is recuperating and with the weather due to improve he should find his true form," he said. "There were signs in this stage, because in the final kilometre he recovered 20 seconds."

Indurain particularly wants to make a triumphal entrance into his home town of Pamplona in nine days' time. This will be the biggest test of his impressive reign and could be the revival of a Tour mummified by his stifling talents.

TOUR DE FRANCE Ninth stage (46km, 28.6 miles, Monêtier-les-Bains to Sestriere): 1 B Riis (Den) Deutsche Telekom 1hr 10min 44secs; 2 L Leblanc (Fr) Polti +24sec; 3 R Virenque (Fr) Festina +26; 4 T Rominger (Swit) Mapei +28; 5 M Indurain (Sp) Banesto s/t; 6 U Bolts (Ger) Deutsche Telekom +41; 7 F Escartin (Sp) Kelme +42; 8 J Ullrich (Ger) Deutsche Telekom +44; 9 P Luttenberger (Aut) Carrera +46; 10 A Olano (Sp) Mapei +54; 11 L Piepoli (It) Refin; 12 G Guerini (It) Polti both s/t; 13 J Bruyneel (Bel) Rabobank +1min 2sec; 14 Y Berzin (Rus) Gewiss +1:23; 15 M Fernandez Ginés (Sp) Mapei +1:30; 16 L Dufaux (Swit) Festina +1:38; 17 M Fincato (It) Roslotto +1:45; 18 P Ugrumov (Lat) Roslotto s/t; 19 O Camenzind (Swit) Panaria +2:07; 20 C Boardman (GB) GAN s/t. **GB:** 125 M Sciandri Motorola +11:27.

Overall standings: 1 Riis 42hr 51min 13sec; 2 Berzin +40sec; 3 Rominger +53; 4 Olano +56; 5 Ullrich +1min 38sec; 6 Luttenberger +2:38; 7 Virenque +3:39; 8 Indurain +4:38; 9 Escartin +4:49; 10 Dufaux +5:03; 11 Ugrumov +5:27; 12 Leblanc +7:08; 13 A Zülle (Swit) ONCE +8:27; 14 Bolts +8:43; 15 A Garmendia (Sp) ONCE +9:07; 16 Piepoli +10:04; 17 B Hamburger (Den) TVM +10:32; 18 Bruyneel +10:48; 19 F Gines +11:04; 20 V Ekimov (Rus) Rabobank +11:52. **GB:** 37 Boardman +32:08; 90 Sciandri +57:39.





Law round in record 64

Golf

Gordon Law, who was sensationally disqualified from Open qualifying last year, set a new course record of 64 at Glenbervie yesterday.

Law, 31, from the Uphall Club in West Lothian, signed a wrong card last July. "It was my own fault for not noticing the mix-up," he recalled.

"What made it all the more annoying was that my 66 would have enabled me to qualify for the championship proper by two shots. I'll never forget seeing my figures up there with the wrong name at the top."

Law has been enjoying one of his best seasons with winnings of £15,000. He was fourth in the Scottish Championship at Dalmahoy and runner-up last month in the Club Professionals' Championship at County Louth.

That earned him a place in the Johnny Walker PGA Cup match at Gleneagles and he was joined among the qualifiers by another member of the Great Britain and Ireland team, the Northumbrian Steve McKenna, who shot 67.

Law made his score without dropping a shot. He birdied four holes on the outward half and three more on the back nine, collecting twos at two of the four short holes. The Australian amateur James McCallum claimed second place with a 65, also without dropping a shot. In addition, he birdied three of the four short holes.

Thalidomide victim Geoff Nicholas's dream of playing in the Open was shattered before the tenacious Australian could even tee off.

Nicholas, nicknamed "The Little Jack Nicklaus in his home country", broke part of his artificial leg while warming up in the driving net before the start of the qualifying competition at Copt Hill near Birmingham.

As a result, the multiple winner of the world amputee title had to leave the course to get a simple repair and was too late to tee off. Nicholas has developed a successful career in Australia since his professional tour debut in 1992.

Meanwhile, the Worcestershire-based Rob Stevens (Abbey Park), shot a two-under-par 69 to end a frustrating three years and progress to the final qualifying stage.

The former British University champion has been a disillusioned player since 1993, when he blamed himself for Staffordshire failing to win the English County Championship, and has played little golf since.

This season his father, Ivan, urged him to try to qualify for the Open. The outcome was his best score for three years.

Johnson recovers momentum

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Michael Johnson, beaten over 200 metres by Frankie Fredericks in Oslo on Friday, recovered his momentum at the Stockholm Grand Prix last night with an assured victory in 19.77sec, a time only he has beaten this season.

The Texan, who set a new world record of 19.66 at the US trials last month, finished well clear of Trinidad's Ato Boldon, who recorded 19.94. It was a convincing riposte to those who suggested his confidence may have been affected after losing his unbeaten 38-race sequence in Oslo to the jubilant Fredericks.

Johnson's performance uplifted a meeting which had earlier had to suffer the withdrawal of Moses Kiptanui who had a cold, the world 100 metres champion Gwen Torrence, who had an allergic rash, and Britain's Kelly Holmes, who was suffering from sinusitis.

Tony Jarrett's Olympic preparations were disrupted last night when he was disqualified from the 110 metres hurdles after registering two false starts. The world silver medallist walked away from a top class field with a dazed look on his face after the starter had ruled he had been responsible for the third false start in the event. Jarrett had held up the race on two other occasions, first to remove something from his eye and then to do up his shoelace. It was a nervy performance from him.

Jarrett's British team-mate Colin Jackson remained impassive throughout the delays, and when the race got away at the sixth attempt he started well enough to remain in contention with the US world champion Allen Johnson on his right over the first four hurdles. Both men faltered at the sixth hurdle crashing down their barriers, but the American recovered better and pulled away to win in 13.25sec. Britain's world record holder, still searching for his best form after suffering tendinitis in his right knee recently, finished raggedly but claimed second place ahead of Cuba's Amilio Valle.

Boldon, the US-based Trinidadian who performed so impressively at both 100 and 200 metres in Lausanne last week, defeated a strong 100 metres field to win in 10.07sec. Jon Drummond, one of America's individual entrants for Atlanta, was given second place over the world champion, Donovan Bailey of Canada. Both men were credited with 10.09sec.

Jonathan Ridgeon, ideally seeking a 400 metres hurdles run in something close to 49 seconds, had to be content with a time of 49.59 as he took sixth place in a race won in 48.91 by an American who has not qualified for the Olympic team, Torrance Zellner.

Grayshon out of the game after 28 years

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Jeff Grayshon has brought an end to 28 continuous years in the game by resigning as coach of Batley. Grayshon, who played until after his 45th birthday two years ago, resigned following the defeat by Rochdale Hornets on Sunday that put Batley at the foot of the First Division.

The former Great Britain forward said that he was not getting a response from some of his players and also blamed abuse from a section of Batley's supporters.

"After 28 years in the game, I didn't need the sort of abuse I was getting from a small minority of the crowd," he said. "It was beginning to get to me and, if I'd stayed around, I might have done something I would not have been proud of."

Batley would have been promoted to the top division last year for the first time in their history, if it had not been for the reorganisation involved in Super League. But they finished next to bottom in the new First Division in the last winter season and have won just one match this time.

"Players have gone and not been replaced," said Grayshon, whose long playing career included successful spells at Dewsbury and Bradford. "It will feel strange being out of the game after all this time, but it hasn't really sunk in yet."

Salford, hot favourites to win the same division and promotion to the Super League next season, have set their sights on signing Andy Platt, the former Wigan and Great Britain prop who is due to return to England after two seasons with the Auckland Warriors.

Auckland's coach, the former Wigan boss, John Monie, is being linked with the vacancy that will be created by Brian Smith's departure from the Bradford Bulls at the end of the season. Like Platt, Monie's contract at the Warriors expires at the end of this season.

Iestyn Harris, Warrington's Welsh international stand-off, is the Stones Super League gold award winner for his performances during June.

The meeting of the Rugby League Council that will decide whether to fast-track South Wales and Huddersfield has been set for next Friday.

ATLANTA '96

Britain need to end goal famine

SPORT-BY-SPORT GUIDE
No1: HOCKEY

Goals are an essential commodity in any Olympic challenge and they have been in scarce supply for both British teams in their final preparations against the more serious challengers for a gold medal.

Both team coaches have expressed their disappointments and frustrations at their problems in that area and have tried desperate last-minute efforts to address the problem.

Jon Copp, the recently appointed replacement for David Whitaker, resorted to showing videos of Sean Kerly's scoring attributes and then pushing Russell Garcia, the only surviving member of the squad that won the gold medal in Seoul, forward – both without immediate success.

Both teams go to Atlanta with the benefit of more "professional" preparation than any previous squads. The men have played 39 internationals since they started their build-up last November and have spent endless weeks at Bisham Abbey.

The unfortunate departure of Whitaker, just eight weeks before the Games, has clearly been detrimental to prospects. It might have been easier to face had it happened several months ago when the original problems were clearly brewing. The change-over has not helped, but the unprecedented size of the programme over the eight months and the loss of form of Calum Giles, the specialist penalty-corner striker, are equally significant.

South Korea are the men's first opponents. Not too much is known of them, although they won the Six Nations' Tournament in Ipoh in which Britain finished fourth.

Points against South Korea and the Dutch, who seem to be running into form, in the second game, seem essential if Britain are to mount a challenge for a place in the semi-finals. Malaysia and South Africa who follow will be no walkovers but should provide full points. Britain's final pool game is against Australia, who are strong favourites for a place in the semi-finals.

The women's eight-nation round-robin format, with play-offs for the medal places, will provide a stern test of fitness and, most of all, consistency.

Again, South Korea and the Dutch provide Britain's first opponents in a competition where each team is very capable of taking points off each other. To equal or better their bronze medal in Barcelona would be a real achievement for Britain.

BRITISH SQUADS: Men: J Laslett (capt), P McGuire (both Teddington), R Thompson, S Hazlitt (both Hounslow), C Giles (Havant), Sonia Singh, J Shaw (both Southgate), C Mayer, Kalbir Takher (both Cannock), S Mason, J Wyatt (both Reading), D Luckes (East Grinstead), J Halls, N Thompson (both Old Loughtonians), D Hall (Guildford), R Garcia (Polo Barcelona). **Women:** J Atkins (Bradford Swithenbank, capt), A Bennett, M Nicholls, K Brown (all Slough), J Sixsmith, H Rose, M Davies (all Sutton Canada Life), T Cullen, C Cook (both Hightown), T Miller (Clifton), J Mould, K Johnson (both Balsam Leicester), J Thompson (Ipswich), R Simpson (Edinburgh), P Robertson, S Fraser (both Bonagrass Grove).

Bill Colwill

Boardman leads pursuit of medals

SPORT-BY SPORT GUIDE
No2: CYCLING

The breathless humidity of Georgia will be nothing compared to the rarefied atmosphere of racing alongside Miguel Indurain and other giants of cycling when Atlanta hosts the road race.

Bike racing is now wide "open" with the Olympics accepting professionals for the first time. The road race particularly has a new edge, and a new class, the élites, merging professional with amateur.

Mixing Tour de France hardened riders with top amateurs sets both on their mettle, and the British manager, Doug Dailey, said: "It's a real bonus that we have been able to bring in stars of this calibre."

He names the Olympic track champion, Chris Boardman, and Max Sciandri for the 229-kilometre race over the Buckhead circuit on 31 July, but Boardman's real target is the individual time trial over the same roads, three days later.

Riding the road race will give him the chance to assess the course, because training is forbidden on the circuit.

Sciandri, the Italian who gains selection by virtue of his being born in Britain, will be suited to the undulating course, but there will be a queue for the medals.

Jostling at the head will be the Frenchman Laurent Jalabert, Spain's world champions, Indurain and Abraham Olano, a host of new Italian talent, and a particularly ambitious American, Lance Armstrong.

Boardman gave Britain their first Olympic gold for 72 years when he won the 4,000m pursuit on the Barcelona track. The new world champion, Graeme Obree, and Yvonne McGregor, the world's second fastest woman pursuiter, will have to dig deep for gold.

Australia are the dominant nation in track racing. They took three world track titles last year, and with Germany and Italy will be the biggest threat to British chances.

The track racing (Stone Mountain Park, 24 to 28 July) could be influenced by the novel track surface described by Dailey as "laminated kitchen tops laid side by side".

Since Barcelona the 100km team time trial has been replaced by mountain biking (Georgia International Horse Park, 30 July), and Britain have a medal hope in the European champion, Caroline Alexander. The Americans, originators of this sport, may find the European challenge rather hot.

BRITAIN'S LINE-UP (to be completed after Sunday's road race championship): Track: 4,000 metres pursuit: G Obree. **4,000m team pursuit:** R Hayles, M Illingworth, C Newton, B Steel. **1,000m time trial:** S Wallace. **Women's 3,000m pursuit:** Y McGregor. **Mountain bike:** C Alexander, D Baker, G Foord, D Murrell. **Road races:** C Boardman, M Sciandri, B Smith, J Tanner and one to be named. **Women:** M Purvis and two to be named. **Time trials:** Boardman, Obree. **Women:** McGregor.

Robin Nicholl

SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics

STOCKHOLM GRAND PRIX (Olympic Stadium): MEN: 100m: 1 A Boldon (Trin) 10.07sec; 2 J Drummond (US) 10.09; 3 D Bailey (Can) 10.09; 4 M Green (Jam) 10.18; 5 O Mitchell (US) 10.18; 6 B Surin (Can) 10.29; 7 P Karlsson (Swe) 10.36; 8 J Williams (US) 10.46. **400m hurdles:** 1 T Zellner (US) 48.91sec; 2 S Nylander (Swe) 49.07; 3 B Bronson (US) 49.21; 4 C Davis (US) 49.22; 5 K Yamazaki (Japan) 49.43; 6 J Ridgeon (GB) 49.59; 7 N Eriksson (Swe) 50.29; 8 K Young (US) 50.35. **800m:** 1 S Langat (Ken) 1min 44.32sec; 2 R Kibet (Ken) 1:44.70; 3 D Matthews (Ir) 1:46.39; 4 T Townsend (US) 1:46.61; 5 D Kremmenacker (US) 1:46.73; 6 A Royster (US) 1:46.97. **WOMEN: 1500m:** 1 C Sacramento (Por) 4min 07.72sec; 2 M Mutola (Moz) 4:07.93; 3 L Rogachova (Rus) 4:08.28; 4 N Mugo (Ken) 4:09.18; 5 M Marussova (Rus) 4:09.76; 6 Y Podkopayeva (Rus) 4:09.86; 7 S Thorsett (US) 4:09.88; 8 S Delahunty (Ir) 4:09.96. **Triple jump:** 1 S Kasparkova (Cz Rep) 14.58m; 2 S Hudson (US) 14.41; 3 O Chesnyakova (Slovak) 14.39; 4 M Griffith (GB) 13.60; 5 N Kayukova (Rus) 13.58; 6 C Olomina (Swe) 13.18.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 6 Chicago White Sox 1; Detroit 9 Toronto 0; Milwaukee 4 New York Yankees 1; California 9 Oakland 4; Boston 7 Baltimore 5; Kansas City 8 Minnesota 2; Texas 8 Seattle 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 9 Houston 1; Montreal 4 New York Mets 3; Florida 7 Philadelphia 4 (10 innings); Pittsburgh 8 St Louis 2; Chicago Cubs 7 Cincinnati 6 (13 innings); Colorado 3 Los Angeles 0; San Diego 10 San Francisco 3.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	52	33	.612	-
Baltimore	46	39	.541	6
Toronto	38	49	.437	15
Boston	36	49	.424	16
Detroit	27	61	.307	26½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Cleveland	52	35	.598	-
Chicago	50	37	.575	2
Milwaukee	43	43	.500	8½
Minnesota	41	45	.477	10½
Kansas City	38	50	.432	14½
WESTERN DIVISION				
Texas	51	36	.586	-
Seattle	46	39	.541	4
Oakland	43	45	.489	8½
California	43	45	.489	8½

NATIONAL LEAGUE
EASTERN DIVISION

Atlanta	54	33	.621	-
Montreal	49	38	.563	5
New York	41	46	.471	13
Florida	40	47	.460	14
Philadelphia	37	49	.430	16½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
St Louis	46	41	.529	-
Houston	47	42	.528	-
Cincinnati	39	43	.476	4½
Chicago	41	46	.471	5
Pittsburgh	39	48	.448	7
WESTERN DIVISION				
San Diego	48	41	.539	-
Los Angeles	47	42	.528	1
Colorado	42	44	.488	4½
San Francisco	38	48	.442	8½

Boxing

Joe Bugner has announced that he would like another shot at the World Boxing Association world heavyweight title now that Mike Tyson has postponed his fight with Bruce Seldon scheduled for next weekend because of a bout of bronchitis. Bugner, the 46-year-old former British champion, became the Pan Asian Boxing Association champion in Australia this weekend with a fifth-round knockout of Young Haumono, of New Zealand. "The win took me into the WBA's top 10 and I have been told that if everything went well then there would be a possible world title fight between myself and Bruce Seldon," he said.

Football

Llansantffraid, the Welsh Cup winners, will play the first leg of their Cup-Winners' Cup qualifying round against Ruch Chorzow, of Poland, at Wrexham's Racecourse ground on Thursday 8 August.

Wrexham have agreed a fee of £100,000 for Brian Carey, Leicester City's Republic of Ireland defender, as an immediate replacement for Barry Hunter who yesterday joined Reading for £400,000.

Jean-Michel Roussier, the general manager of Marseille, has said that Adilson, the Brazilian defender, will join the former European champions within the next few days on a contract for three years provided he passes a medical. Adilson, a tough and uncompromising defender who can also play in midfield, helped the Brazilian side Gremio win the South American Libertadores Cup last year. He will take the place of the retired defender Bernard Casoni.

NORWEGIAN LEAGUE Premier Division: Stroemsgodset 4 Start 1; Kongsvinger 2 Moss 1; Bodoe/Glimt 0 Rosenborg 4; Molde 3 Viking 0; Tromsoe 4 Brann 1; Stabaek 0 Vaalerengа 0. **Leading positions:** 1 Rosenborg (P14, Pts32); 2 Lillestroem (13-28); 3 Brann (14-24).

INTERTOTO CUP (Nyon, Switzerland): Group 1: Standard Liege (Bel) 2 Hapoel Haifa (Isr) 2. **Group 2:** Werder Bremen (Ger) [illegible]. **Group 3:** Djurgardens IF (Swe) 2. **Group 4:** Zagreb Lubin (Pol) 3 Conwy United (Wal) 0. **Group 7:** Ataka-Aura Minsk (Bela) 0 Antalyaspor (Tur) 3. **Group 9:** FK Cukaricki (Yug) 1 Daugava (Lat) 3. **Group 12:** FF Jaro (Fin) 2 Kolkheti Poti (Georgia) 0.

WORLD CUP South American qualifying tournament: (Lima): Peru 0 Argentina 0. (La Paz): Bolivia 6 (Sandy, Etcheverry, Baldivieso, Coimbra, Suarez, Pena) Venezuela 1 (Tortolero). (Barranquilla): Colombia 3 (Aprilla 10, Valderrama 23, de Avila 77) Uruguay 1 (Cedres 58).

UNDER-23 INTERNATIONAL: Mexico 1 (Luis Garcia 45) Hungary 0.

Golf

US SENIOR OPEN (Beachwood, Ohio) Leading first-round scores: 277 D Stockton 70 67 67 73. 279 H Irwin 73 71 69 67. 280 R Floyd 70 73 69 68. 282 G Marsh 69 74 70 69. 284 J Sigel 72 69 72 72; T Jenkins (GB) 74 68 70 72. 285 B Charles 66 73 73 74. 286 B Summerhays 72 69 74 70; W Morgan 73 71 72 70; J Bland (SA) 74 67 72 73. 287 [illegible].

OPEN REGIONAL QUALIFYING (*denotes amateur) Copt Heath: 69 R Stevens (Abbey Park); A Stokes (Lea Marston); G Harris (Broome Manor). 70 J Lovell (Brokenhurst Manor). 71 *I Lyner (Leeds); *M Raynard (Moseley); N Doidge (unattached); R Mountford (Ladbrook Park); I Cook (Levington and County); *M Houghton (Kidderminster); S Griffiths (unattached). 72 *R Conway-Lye (Mentmore); D Jones (Leeds); G Mercer (Sedgley); S Rose (Cold Ashby); N Burdekin (North Warwicks). 73 (after play-off) *H Aldridge (Minchin Hampton); M Fenning (The Vale); N Connelly (Staverton Park); K Dickens (Northampton). **Romford:** 67 M Day (Langley Park Driving Range); *D Salisbury (Boyce Hill). 68 *S Downton (Orsett). 69 T Barham (Weald Park); O Wood (Castle Point); L Lockwood (Benton Hall); C Laurence (Manor of Groves); W McColl (Thorpe Hall). 70 V Cox (unattached); P Joiner (Castle Point), C Baron (Woburn); C Tucker (Mannings Heath); R Green (Nazeing); J Murray (Sidcup). 71 A Duffin (Clacton on Sea); C Tingey (Colnbrook); A Hemsley (Richmond Park); C Harman (Theydon Bois); M Stokes (Stonyhill); S Stevens (Chiselhurst); * B Smith (Theydon Bois). **Glenbervie:** 64 G Law (Uphall). 65 *J McCallum (Aus). 66 *O Walker (Paisley); C Ronald (Torrance House). 67 S McKenna (Stocksfield); K Baxter (Buchanan Castle); *D Orr (East Renfrewshire). 68 S Thompson (Gledcoch); *S Allan (Aus); D Robinson (Ferenezet); B Deas (Prayhs County Park); S Henderson (King's Links); S Dunsmore (Falkirk Tryst); K Phillips (Wimanfield); J Graham (Silloth on Solway); M Miller (unattached); A Reid (Barassie). G Taylor (unattached). 69 J Henderson (Royal Musselburgh). **Moortown:** 69 S Bennett (Swinglinе Circuit); 70 P Archer (Birchwood); J Cheetham (Bury). 71 *P Fenton (Huddersfield); M Pocon (Eng). 72 *J Roberts (Howley Hall); M Smee (Garstead Park); S Townsend (Wiltshire). 73 I Bottomley (unattached); *N Gibson (Selby); M Ramsden (Bondroyd); S Fitzgerald (Gar); S Drummond (Hawkstone Park); N Preston (Prestbury Rovers). 74 P Dunn (Hallows); A Frostal-Gay (Leeds Golf Centre); *I Parkinson (Dore and Totley); S Elliott (Druids Heath); O Pople (Wimanfield); R Nutten (SA). **South Herts:** 69 T Charnley (unattached); 0 Mosamury (Japan). 70 L Fielding (Enfield); D Terrance (unattached); I Steel (unattached); J Wright (Old Ford Manor); R Murayam (Japan); R Lee (unattached). 71 A Nicholas (Hertfordshire); P Pern (Theydon Bois). 72 N Vitunes (Enfield); S Wrinklef (Enfield).

WESTERN OPEN (Lemont, Illinois) Leading fourth-round scores (US unless stated): 270 S Stricker 65 69 67 69. 278 B Andrade 69 71 69 69; J Blake 67 67 73 71. 279 J Gallagher 74 68 70 67; G Day 70 71 69 69; M Brisky 74 67 68 70; C Parry (Aus) 69 69 70 71. 280 V Singh (Fij) 71 70 69 70; S Elkington (Aus) 70 72 67 71; M Brooks 68 70 70 72; J Leonard 69 67 72 72; L Janzen 67 68 71 74. 281 T Purtzer 72 71 70 68; N Ozaki (Japan) 67 70 74 70; M McCumber 72 68 71 70; J Sluman 67 70 72 72; N Henke 67 71 71 72. 282 C Beck 71 71 72 68; R Mediate 71 71 72 68; B Crenshaw 68 73 72 69; L Rinker 71 71 70 70; B Tway 72 71 69 70; C Strange 70 69 72 71; T Lehman 73 70 68 71; M Reid 70 71 69 72. 283 G Waite (NZ) 69 74 70 70. 285 S Appleby (Aus) 73 67 70 75. 287 W Grady (Aus) 71 68 70 78; J Parnevik (Swe) 71 72 69 75. 290 D Frost (SA) 72 71 72 75; N Price (Zim) 70 70 73 77.

Helen Alfredsson has deposed Britain's Laura Davies at the top of the Ford Order of Merit table following her victory in the Hennessy Cup at Refrath in Germany on Sunday. The Swede's winnings total £71,250 from two tournaments this year. Davies stands in second place on £63,750.

FORD ORDER OF MERIT (GB or Irl unless stated): 1 H Alfredsson (Swe) £71,250; 2 L Davies £63,750; 3 C Hj Koch (Swe) £48,733; 4 L Hackney £36,598; 5 T Johnson £31,106; 6 L Neumann (Swe) £25,700; 7 M Lunn (Aus) £23,462; 8 M L de Lorenzi (Fr) £21,996; 9 J Morley £21,983; 10 M Koch (Ger) £19,387.

SOLHEIM CUP STANDINGS: 1 M L de Lorenzi 888pts; 2 L Davies 728; 3 L Hackney 570; 4 L Fairclough 548; 5 A Sorenstam (Swe) 473; 6 J Morley 401; 7 K Orum (Den) 388; 8 T Johnson 376; 9 A Nicholas 364; 10 P Meunier Lebouc 363.

Rugby League

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP: Sydney City 12 Brisbane Broncos 10.

Snooker

Ronnie O'Sullivan was yesterday fined £500 by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association after being found guilty of breaching two of the game's disciplinary rules during the British Open at Plymouth during the 1995-96 season. The punishment will not affect O'Sullivan's two-year suspended sentence received for a backstage incident during the Embassy World Championship three weeks later.

Sumo

NAGOYA GRAND TOURNAMENT (Nagoya, Japan) Second day of 15: Kushimaumi (won 1, lost 1) bt Hamanoshima (0-2); Kotoryu (2-0) bt Oginishiki (1-1); Rikio (1-1) bt Shikishima (0-2); Higonoumi (2-0) bt Dejimaumi (1-1); Ganyu (2-0) bt Asanowaka (1-1); Kyokudozan (2-1) bt Kenko (0-2); Mainoumi (2-0) bt Konishiki (1-1); Kotobeppu (1-1) bt Asanosho (1-1); Terao (1-1) bt Kitakachidoki (0-2); Kotonazuma (1-1) bt Minatofuji (0-2); Kotonowaka (1-1) bt Misugisato (0-2); Akinoshima (2-0) bt Aogiyama (0-2); Tamakasuga (1-1) bt Takatoriki (0-2); Kotonishiki (2-0) bt Kaio (1-1); Musoyama (2-0) bt Mitoizumi (0-2); Daishoho (1-1) bt Wakanohana (0-2); Musashimaru (2-0) bt Naminohana (1-1); Takanonami (2-0) bt Daishi (0-2); Takanohana (2-0) bt Tosanoumi (1-1); Akebono (2-0) bt Asahiyutaka (1-1).

Tennis

WIMBLEDON RESULTS (seeds in capitals): Women's doubles final: Holders: J Novotna (Cz Rep) and A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) M HINGIS (Swit) and H SUKOVA (Cz Rep) bt M J McGRATH (US) and L NEILAND (Lat) 5-7 7-5 6-1.

Mixed Doubles quarter-finals: Holders J Stark and M Navratilova (US): M WOODFORDE (Aus) and L NEILAND (Lat) bt P GALBRAITH (US) and P H SHRIVER (US) 3-6 6-2 7-5; C SUK (Cz Rep) and H SUKOVA (Cz Rep) bt L B Jensen (US) and N J Arendt (US) 6-3 2-6 10-8. **Semi-finals:** C SUK and H SUKOVA bt G CONNELL (Can) and L A DAVENPORT (US) 6-4 6-2; M WOODFORDE and L NEILAND bt C J Van Rensburg (SA) and L Golarsa (It) 6-3 3-6 6-2. **Final:** C SUK (Cz Rep) and H SUKOVA (Cz Rep) bt M WOODFORDE (Aus) and L NEILAND (Lat) 1-6 6-3 6-2.

Girls Doubles final: Holders: C Black (Zim) and A Olsza (Pol): O Barabanschikova and A Mauresmo (Fr) bt L Osterloh (US) and S Reeves (US) 5-7 6-3 6-1.

LEADING ATP RANKINGS: 1 P Sampras (US) 4,350pts; 2 T Muster (Aut) 3,692; 3 A Agassi (US) 3,377; 4 Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 3,194; 5 B Becker (Ger) 3,162; 6 M Chang (US) 3,162; 7 G Ivanisevic (Croa) 2,753; 6 P Krajicek (Neth) 2,588; 9 J Courier (US) 2,373; 10 T Enqvist (Swe) 2,216. **GB:** 39 T Henman (GB) 1,023; 72 G Rusedski (GB) 871.

LEADING ATP PRIZE-MONEY WINNERS: 1 Y Kafelnikov (Rus) $1,440,958 (£954,276); 2 T Muster (Aut) 1,102,191; 3 R Krajicek (Neth) 1,092,311; 4 G Ivanisevic (Croa) 1,087,229; 5 P Sampras (US) 821,422; 6 M Chang (US) 733,766; 7 M Rosset (Swit) 703,664; 8 B Becker (Ger) 694,657; 9 M Woodforde (Aus) 683,952; 10 J Alami (Swe) 666,363; 11 T Woodbridge (Aus) 608,633; 12 M Stich (Ger) 584,635; 13 A Agassi (US) 568,880; 14 M Rios (Chile) 560,276; 15 P Haarhuis (Neth) 535,596; 16 A Costa (Sp) 529,196; 17 T Martin (US) 519,646; 18 B Black (Zim) 501,457; 19 M Washington (US) 475,749; 20 J Courier (US) 457,522.

EVENING RACING RESULTS

RIPON

7.00: 1. NORTH ARDAR (S Copp) 100-30; 2. Guesstimation 7-4 fav; 3. Diamond Crown 11-1. 13 ran. Sht-hd, 2½. (Mrs M Reveley). Tote: £4.60; £1.40, £1.60, £3.00. DF: £7.40. CSF: £11.36. Trio: £55.10.

7.25: 1. UNDER PRESSURE (M Birch) 5-1; 2. Five Live 5-1; 3. Sheraton Girl 10-1. 7 ran. 13-8 fav Hoh Surprise. 2, 1½. (T Easterby). Tote: £7.50; £2.70, £3.00. DF: £27.50. CSF: £30.85.

WINDSOR

6.40: 1. GAME PLOY (Pat Eddery) 9-1; 2. Runic Symbol 16-1; 3. Ring The Chief 33-1. 4. Premier League 7-1 fav. 24 ran. [illegible] (D Haydn Jones). Tote: £10.90; £3.60, £3.00, £9.20, £2.30. DF: £64.80. CSF: £143.53. Tricast: £4,169.50. Trio: £556.30. NR: Fairy Knight.

7.10: 1. VICTORY DANCER (B Doyle) 4-1; 2. Green Jewel 4-1; 3. Hil Rhapsody 14-1. 7 ran. 13-8 fav Peartree House (4th). Nk, sht-hd. (B Meehan). Tote: £5.20; £2.50, £2.30. DF: £17.20. CSF: £18.67.

7.35: 1. ARABIAN STORY (J Reid) 9-2; 2. Infamous 12-1; 3. Jazz King 4-1. 9 ran. 5-2 fav Hayaain. ½, 3½. (Lord Huntingdon). Tote: £5.20; £1.60, £2.60, £1.50. DF: £21.20. CSF: £51.69. Trio: £103.40.

A decision as to whether the Prix de Diane winner, Sil Sila, will be supplemented for Sunday's Irish Oaks will be relayed by fax from Atlanta to Bryan Smart's Lambourn yard hours before today's noon deadline. The filly's owner, Senor Luis Alvarez Cervera, flew to Atlanta over the weekend to prepare for the Olympics, in which he will represent Spain in the equestrian events. He will leave his decision as to whether Sil Sila's name should be added to the list of entries for the Ir£200,000 Classic until the last moment. "It's entirely up to the owner," Smart said yesterday. "The supplementary stage is at noon, and it is his decision." If Sil Sila is not supplemented for the Curragh, which would cost connections Ir£25,000, she will run next in the Yorkshire Oaks at York on 21 August.

FIXTURES

Speedway

(7.30 unless stated)

PREMIER LEAGUE: [illegible]

INDIVIDUAL: [illegible]

Other sports

TENNIS: [illegible]

IN TOMORROW'S 12 PAGES OF SPORT
Nigel Roebuck compares Damon Hill with the great British drivers of the past

THE INDEPENDENT summer of sport

THIRD TEST: Injured Hussain forced to sidelines while England's batsmen grind out another day in the middle at Trent Bridge

Hick in danger after poor run

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Trent Bndge
India 521
England 550-7

The bold claims made by England's captain, Mike Atherton, that his team could still win this third Test match, were shown to be nothing more than wishful thinking after another slow day's play at Trent Bridge. However, dull days can still provide interesting sub-plots, and the differing fortunes of the newcomer Mark Ealham, who scored 51, and experienced Graeme Hick, who again failed with a leaden-footed 20, were revealing.

Having bowled on the unforgiving surface, Ealham knew there were no excuses not to score runs on it. Pushing his first ball in Test cricket firmly past mid-off for two, he got off to an assured start which continued to blossom until he skewed a drive to cover point off Javagal Srinath, three balls after reaching his fifty. In between, he betrayed his crickeüng lineage with a compactness of stroke that was the spit of his father, Alan, the Kent captain when the county ruled the roost.

In contrast, Hick spent 64 minutes until lunch scoring just five runs, and that was after he had struck the second ball he received for four. Having gone to the wicket with the score at 360 for two, the situation was tailor-made for Hick to give the bowling a good mauling, but he seemed strangely cowed by the situation, as if India were sending down a chunk of explosive and not a five-and-a-half-ounce cricket ball.

Since playing for England, Hick's batting average at Test level has actually gone up every year he has played. Even so, his form has appeared to alternate between hot and cold, and scores of 8, 1, 6 and 20 in the current series suggest a talent not at ease with itself. Before this season, he had been dropped for four of the five home series since his Test debut in 1991.

Hick, you may remember, was one of the players, along with his captain, who was given leave to miss the county game preceding this Test match. But whereas the rest cure clearly helped Atherton rediscover his powers of coocentratioo, it has done little for Hick, whose mechanical batting style needs rhythm, not rest.

In any case, holidays are oot for everyone, and Margaret Thatcher reputedly never took one until she was forced to by her own party in 1991, the year Hick made his England debut. Unless he can score some big runs for Worcestershire in the next fortnight, he may find himself going much the same way when England oext gather at Lord's for the first Test against Pakistan later in the month.

Even more distressing for England though, will be the possible absence of Nasser Hussain. Having had his right index finger cracked by a lifter from Srinath during the last over of Saturday's play, it will be touch and go whether he can recover in time for that Test. Broken fingers usually take at least three weeks to mend, depending on the severity of the fracture. With Hussain the one man currently in form, England will be desperately hoping he is a quick healer.

That desperation was palpable when England's physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, announced that Hussain was to undergo treatment in an oxygen chamber in order to try and speed the healing process.

His absence at the start of play meant that Atherton had to begin with a partner on nought instead of a strokeplayer with Saturday's 107 behind him. It was a factor that certainly contributed to England's laboured start, with Atherton receiving another reprieve – his third of the innings – when he was dropped by Vikram Rathore at second slip off Saurav Ganguly.

With another slice of luck and a whole day's batting unreeling before him, Atherton would have had his sights on a huge individual score. Instead, the next chance he offered proved to be his last. Venkatesh Prasad forcing the batsman to steer the ball to third slip, where Sanjay Manjrekar clung on to a low catch.

The combination of Atherton's departure and Hick's arrival and subsequent go-slow catalysed Graham Thorpe into unleashing a brace of stunning cover drives off Srinath. But if he was fortunate to survive some corking deliveries from the ever-impressive opening bowlers, it was a gentle swinging ball from Ganguly that finally had his name on it.

Hick was next to go, caught off the leading edge at mid-on trying to repeat a whip to leg off Venkatapathy Raju. It left England on the healthy but highly superstitious score of 444 for four, a sequence that immediately struck five balls later when Jack Russell was out for nought, edging Prasad to his opposite number, Nayan Moogia.

However, refusiog to be cowed by such voodoo symmetry, Chris Lewis fine-glanced his first ball to long leg for four. Lewis geoerally looked in good touch and struck the ball sweetly until Anil Kumble managed to slide the perfect flipper into his pads.

That left Dominic Cork and Min Patel to take England past India's score, and they ended the day 29 runs ahead. So far, over a thousand runs have heeo scored without both teams' first innings being completed. That is a cop out, not a cricket match.

The newcomer Mark Ealham proves equal to a ball from Anil Kumble on his way to 51 at Trent Bridge yesterday Photograph: Peter Jay

Trent Bridge scoreboard

India won toss

INDIA – First Innings 521 (S R Tendulkar 177, S C Ganguly 136, R S Dravid 84, S V Manjrekar 53).

ENGLAND – First Innings
(Saturday 322 for 1)

*M A Atherton c Manjrekar b Prasad (465 min, 376 balls, 20 fours)	160
N Hussain retired hurt (235 min, 150 balls, 12 fours)	107
G P Thorpe lbw b Ganguly (125 min, 92 balls, 5 fours)	45
G A Hick c Srinath b Raju (142 min, 83 balls, 3 fours)	20
M A Ealham c sub (A D Jadeja) b Srinath (152 min, 120 balls, 3 fours)	51
†R C Russell c Mongia b Prasad (5 min, 5 balls)	0
C C Lewis lbw b Kumble (66 min, 60 balls, 2 fours)	21
D G Cork not out (91 min, 81 balls, 2 fours)	24
M M Patel not out (85 min, 72 balls, 1 four)	22
Extras (b18, lb18, nb14)	50
Total (for 7, 774 min, 194 overs)	550

Fall (cont): 2-360 (Atherton), 3-396 (Thorpe), 4-444 (Hick), 5-444 (Russell), 6-491 (Lewis), 7-497 (Ealham).

To bat: A D Mullally.

Bowling: Bowling: Srinath 47-12-131-2 (nb5) (13-3-45-0, 8-2-21-1, 3-1-10-0, 3-0-6-0, 11-2-26-0, 9-3-23-1); Prasad 43-12-124-2 43-12-124-2 (nb7) (4-1-16-0, 6-2-15-0, 4-1-16-0, 3-1-12-0, 7-1-19-0, 12-2-29-1, 7-4-17-1); Kumble 37-5-97-1 (nb3) (1-0-2-0, 3-1-4-0, 4-0-21-0, 10-2-35-0, 19-2-35-1); Raju 43-12-76-1 (10-3-21-0, 11-1-23-0, 1-0-1-0, 15-6-26-1, 6-2-5-0); Ganguly 17-2-88-1 (nb3) (1-0-6-0, 5-0-18-0, 1-0-6-0, 10-2-28-1); Tendulkar 7-0-28-0 (5-0-19-0 2-0-9-0).

Progress: Hussain retired hurt overnight. 350: 451 min, 111.5 overs. Lunch: 395 for 2 (Thorpe 45, Hick 5) 129 overs. 400: 542 min, 132.2 overs. 450: 625 min, 153.2 overs. Tea: 469 for 5 (Ealham 34, Lewis 16) 160 overs. 500: 690 min, 169.1 overs. 550: 772 min, 193.5 overs.

Atherton's 150: 413 min, 336 balls, 18 fours.

Ealham's 50: 148 min, 116 balls, 3 fours.

Umpires: K T Francis (Sri Lanka) and G Sharp (Eng).

Players squander a surface to savour

HENRY BLOFELD

The English are a funny lot. After poor pitches for the first two Tests, at Edgbaston and Lord's, England and India have predictahly found much the best surface at Trent Bridge for the Third and final Test.

As a result, runs have heeo scored in hulk by both sides and a draw soon became inevitable.

So, we now hear that this is too good a pitch for Test cricket in much the same way as, after 10 days of chilly rain, the first two days of sunshine are greeted with loud protests abo..t the unhearable heat.

Yet those who complain about the boring cricket this pitch has produced are showing how customs have changed since the 1940s, '50s and '60s when it was a batsman's game. Crowds came expecting to see huge scores heing made.

In those days, however, the spectators had ooe important advantage over a modern audience: the game moved more quickly because of the significantly faster over-rate. A full day's play produced many more than today's 90 overs, and with more balls to face the scoring rate was obviously higher, the game progressed faster and dull draws, which still happened, were less inevitable. Also, umpires were more prepared to give hatsmen out.

Nowadays, crowds have been conditiooed by the hustle and hustle of limited-over cricket, which has effectively outlawed the protracted battle between good hatsmen and clever bowlers, often spinners, where maiden overs were frequent and fascinating. Test cricket has always been an examination: one-day cricket an exhibition.

Those who have condemned this pitch forget, too, that this match would have moved forward much faster had the fielding been adequate. India's slips were a disaster. If all the chances given had been accepted, we might well have been looking forward now to the prospect of an exciting last day.

I believe that Frank Dalling, who has taken over the Trent Bridge pitch, should be congratulated. There was more life in it than the scores suggest: the seam bowlers, especially Javagal Srinath, were able to find bouoce and movement, aod one lost count of the number of times halsmen were beaten outside the off stump. The pitch did not let down the players as much as the players let down a pitch which provided a truer test of cricketing skills.

A radical search for way to relieve tedium

JON CULLEY

Jagmohan Dalmiya, the secretary of the Indian Cricket Board, is an expansionist and a radical who has brought unease to the game's traditionalists by suggestiog, among other things, that draws in Test matches might have outlived their acceptability.

Should he wish to support the poiot when the International Cricket Council reconvenes today at Lord's, where Dalmiya hopes to he made chairman, he might simply produce a clutch of this morning's newspapers, in which can he found descriptions of a Test match moving at a tedious pace towards stalemate, watched hy a crowd harely larger than turns out here for the Sunday League.

The third Test has, indeed, offered a compelling argument for finding some way of ensuring that futile exercises do not recur.

A flat, slow wicket with only the occasional hint of life has generated cricket of much the same character, which has been reflected in the size of the audience.

The ground was full on Friday and Saturday, but very few of the 13,000 holders of advanced tickets for each of those days bothered to show up again yesterday, with many more of Trent Bridge's white seats left to gleam in the sun than were occupied.

Dalmiya was present to witness the sceoes himself. "Draws can be an important part of the game," he said, "but in international sport there is no point in playing for a handful of people.

"I would always prefer to see a good day's play in a Test rather than a one-day match hut something has to he done hecause people are not interested in watching five days without a conclusion."

What Dalmiya did not say is what he would actually do, other than appoint a committee of experts. He had "certain ideas", he said, hut would divulge no detail other than to say the results would bave to be obtained through "real cricket".

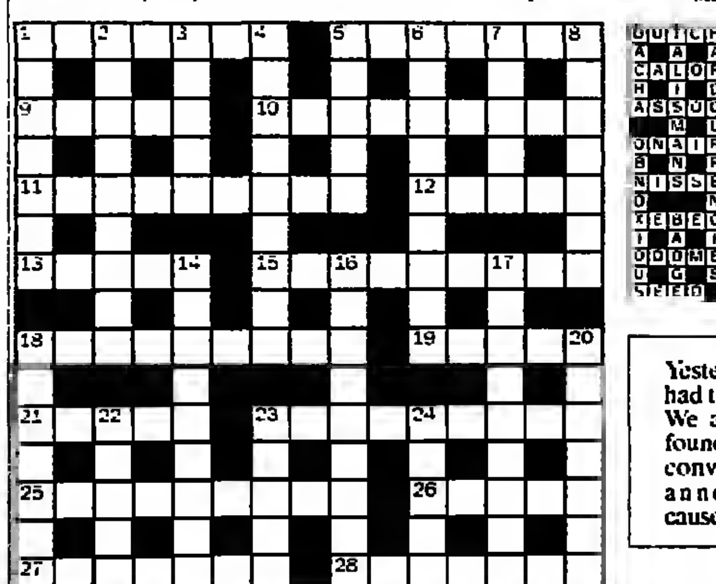
This would rule out the possibility of a cricket version of the penalty shoot-out. More feasible is a limit in time or overs, on the length of first innings, the extreme duration of which killed this contest.

Dalmiya's view will not be without support, especially among marketing men, but first he must be elected. However, even if he polls most votes in the hallot it is not certain he will be.

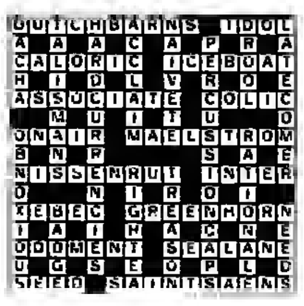
This is the first time that there has been a contest for the post and the ICC must first decide whether a wioner needs a simple majority or a more clear-cut proportion of the vote.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3034, Tuesday 9 July By Aelred



Monday's Solution



Yesterday's puzzle had the wrong grid. We apologise profoundly for the inconvenience and annoyance this caused.

ACROSS

1 Capable of producing iron French roofing material (7)
5 Popular drink I had proved tasteless (7)
9 Teacher's not quite an inexperienced type (5)
10 Lends a car out for many months here? (9)
11 Doomed poorly old people supported by editor (3-6)
12 Wickedness on road to where commandments were given? (5)
13 Scotsman returned advertisement for nymph (5)
15 Looking about (9)
18 In clever changes takes time to be a bit brainy? (9)
19 Needing to lose weight to keep measurement slight (5)
21 Mad attempt to follow artist (5)
23 Salt's concern about a number in ship (9)
25 Suspect's similarly loud? (9)
26 Examine evidence about Henry's move (5)
27 Forgive a bachelor's misplaced love (7)
28 One cherishes British nurse's recipe for increasing fondness? (7)

DOWN

1 Alien and heretofore ignoble in part (7)
2 Right libel one shamefully in revolution (9)
3 I had to go to Douglas's place to find peculiarity of speech (5)
4 Endlessly wealthy after city money case? (9)
5 Committed deadly sin as primitive instincts came first (5)
6 Health resorts with blazing fires serving simple characters (4,5)
7 Scheme to catch one is without elegance (5)
8 Light coat for housework? (7)
14 Was a long time with daughter brought up as a madcap (9)
16 One fights potential arguer about evil (9)
17 Liberal abandoned restraint in copy (9)
18 Woman circles mountain to find a fragrant plant (7)
20 Article on an old actor mostly appearing here? (7)
22 Squanders money to get a piece of music (5)
23 Timeless distinguishing mark of something hidden (5)
24 On active service on island finds calm amid turbulence (5)

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Saunders sets 20-goal target

Football
NICK DUXBURY

Dean Saunders returned to the Premiership yesterday talking a good game. The 31-year-old striker completed his £1.5m move from Galatasaray with the intention of ending Nottingham Forest's search for a goalscorer by bagging at least 20 next season.

Saunders, who spent a year in Turkey, scoring 21 goals in 28 games, has been recruited to give Forest the firepower that Campbell, Lee, Silenzi and Co failed to deliver last season.

"I always set myself a target of 20 goals each season and I'm not going to change oow," the former Derby, Liverpool and Aston Villa forward said. "I can't promise to score 20 goals hut I feel certain I will be able to improve the team at Forest."

Having upgraded the front end, Frank Clark, the Forest manager, intends to strengthen the back by signing the Croat international Nikola Jerkan. Clark has agreed a £1m fee with Real Oviedo, which will take his spending for the summer to £3m. A work permit for the 31-year-old defender, who played in the *Euro 96* quarter-final against Germany, has still to be secured hut Forest do not envisage any problems.

The Danish iotemational striker Mikkel Beck begins pre-season training today with a Middlesbrough team whose disciplinary record has led to Bryan Robsoo making an embarrassing appearance before the Football Association.

The Boro player-manager, who worked as assistant to Eogland coach Terry Venahles during *Euro 96*, will face a disciplinary commission in Manchester on 9 August. The club will be hoping the powers of persuasion he brought to bear on the £4m Emersoo and the £7m Fabrizio Ravanelli will deter the FA from haoding the club a heavy fine.

The former Premiership clubs, Queen's Park Rangers and Manchester City are also on the carpet as are Portsmouth, Luton, Millwall, Gillingham and Hartlepool.

Beck is believed to have signed for Middlesbrough even though he has been involved in a dispute with Fortuna Cologne, who demanded a transfer fee because they claimed they had a year's option on his expired contract. A preliminary court hearing in Germany supported Beck though the decision has yet to be ratified.

Manchester United have experienced "a slight hitch" concerning the £3.5m transfer of Karel Poborsky, the Czech Republic midfielder from Slavia Prague. Negotiations were postponed at the weekend, hut Maurice Watkins, United's legal director, described the delay as "nothing serious".

Fernando Nelson, the 26-year-old Portuguese international right-back, will arrive in Birmingham tomorrow to sort out persooal terms with Astoo Villa over his £1.75m move from Sporting Lisbon.

A tribunal has ruled that Queen's Park Rangers will have to observe a sell-on agreement and pay £350,000 to Tottenham Hotspur for the striker Steve Slade. Rangers had offered £100,000 for the England U-21 internatiooal, who has signed a four-year contract.

The spectator who caught the *Euro 96* final ball after it was kicked into the Wembley crowd by a jubilant German player has given it to the makers of the crown jewels for safe keeping.

Peter Gibbons, a 33-year-old carpenter from South Harrow, has refused four-figure sums for the ball and has accepted an offer from Garrards to keep it in the same safe where the Premiership trophy is held. "I am very nervous about having it. I have lost sleep and I am off my food," he said.

The Referees' Association president, Peter Willis, has joined the call for the 'golden goal' rule to be consigned to the scrap heap. "In my view, it is unnatural and brings a brutal end to a game," said Willis, whose organisation has 33,000 members.

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